

How To Receive Answered Prayer

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

Know What You Want From God

KEY VERSE:

John 15:7 -- "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

REFLECTION:

My wife and I have been on a journey with prayer, and one thing we keep coming back to is this -- you have to know what you want from God. I am learning that vague prayers tend to get vague results. Jesus was not vague when He said "what you desire." He meant something specific. Something real. Something you have actually thought through. When I finally stopped wandering around in general requests and got specific -- truly specific -- things began to change. I remember when I finally asked God clearly for a wife. Six months later, I had one. The word "you" appears five times in John 15:7. That is not an accident. God is pointing the responsibility back at us. Get honest. Get specific. Tell God exactly what you are believing Him for today.

PRAYER:

Father, I come to You today and I choose to be specific. Help me to identify clearly what I am trusting You for, and give me the courage to bring it before You with faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Write down one specific thing you are believing God for -- not general, but detailed -- and place it somewhere you will see it throughout the day.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

Get the Word Inside You

KEY VERSE:

John 15:7 -- "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

REFLECTION:

I want to be honest with you -- the Word of God does not get inside you through casual, hurried reading. I have learned this the hard way. You have to take the promises that apply to your situation and you have to water them. Day after day. Out loud. To God, to yourself, to the enemy if necessary. When I was standing for my healing, I spent two years speaking the Word over my body. After about two years, something changed. That Word was no longer just in my head -- it was burning in my heart. There is a difference, and you will know it when you feel it. Find two or three scriptures that speak directly to what you are trusting God for. Do not chase a hundred verses. Find your two or three and water them. Speak them. Think them. Let them get

deep in you.

PRAYER:

Lord, I want Your Word to move from my head into my heart. Help me to take the time to speak it, meditate on it, and let it become something that burns inside me. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Find two or three scriptures that address your specific need and speak them aloud at least three times today -- once in the morning, once at midday, and once before bed.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

Believe That You Receive Before You See It

KEY VERSE:

1 John 5:14-15 -- "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

REFLECTION:

Here is where the rubber meets the road. Here is what separates those who see answers from those who keep waiting without receiving. You have to believe that you receive before the answer shows up in the natural. I know that goes against everything our natural mind wants to do. Natural faith says -- I will believe it when I see it. But spiritual faith says -- I believe it because God said it, and now I am watching for it to manifest. I have wept over 1 John 5:14-15. I have stood in my living room and said, God, I know You heard me, and because You heard me, I know I have what I asked for. That is not positive thinking. That is faith in a faithful God. Abraham did it. You can do it too. You got to believe you have it before you get it.

PRAYER:

Father, I choose right now to believe that You have heard my prayer. Because You heard me, I trust that the answer is already mine in Jesus' name. Help me to hold that position without wavering. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

When doubt creeps in today, speak this sentence aloud: "God heard my prayer, and I have the answer in Jesus' name." Say it as many times as you need to.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

Guard Your Mind, Guard Your Faith

KEY VERSE:

James 4:7 -- "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

REFLECTION:

I want to talk to you honestly about something I had to learn the hard way when I was fighting for my life. I had to guard who I let speak into me. There were Christians -- well-meaning people -- who called me and put doubt in my heart without even realizing it. After those calls, I would check myself. Am I higher or lower right now? If I was lower, I stopped answering. I lost some friendships over that season. I did not care. My life was on the line. I could not afford doubt in my heart. Your situation may not be life or death, but your faith is still too valuable to leave unguarded. The devil will come at your mind like machine gun fire sometimes. You have to resist him. Pull those thoughts down. Bring them into captivity. You have the authority in Jesus' name to do exactly that.

PRAYER:

Lord, help me to guard my heart and mind today. I resist every doubt, every fear, and every discouraging thought in the name of Jesus. I choose to keep my faith strong. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Identify one voice, habit, or input in your life that consistently drains your faith, and make a deliberate choice today to limit your exposure to it.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

Think It, Speak It, Act It

KEY VERSE:

Philippians 4:8 -- "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things."

REFLECTION:

You are what you think. I believe that with everything in me. And here is the thing my wife and I keep coming back to in our own prayer journey -- faith is not just something you feel, it is something you do. You talk it and you act it. Every thought, every picture, every image in your mind must line up with what you are standing for in faith. You cannot allow a negative picture to take root. When Jodi Osteen was given three weeks to live, she got up every single morning, took six hours to get dressed if she had to, and went to work. She was acting what she believed. That is faith with a corresponding action. So today, choose your thoughts deliberately. Speak what you believe. Then take one step that matches what you have been saying. That is how answered prayer comes.

PRAYER:

Father, today I choose to think on what is true, pure, and full of good report. I will speak what I believe and act on it. Thank You that my faith is not dead -- it is alive and working in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Take one small, practical action today that corresponds to what you have been believing God for -- something that demonstrates your faith is real and active.