

Confidence: A Key to Effective Prayer

Dr. John Carmichael

[1Jo 5:14-15 NASB95] 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

- One of the major reasons why people do not pray is they lack confidence in prayer. Will God hear me? Will it do any good?
- Sometimes this lack of confidence shows even when they pray. Our prayers become full of doubt and unbelief. It hinders their effectiveness.
- The point of this passage is to develop confidence in prayer.

In what ways does this passage develop confidence in prayer?

Here are four important elements that develop confidence in prayer.

I. God wants us to approach Him with confidence.

- a. God wants us to approach Him with confidence. It is true that God does not reject the downhearted or broken. From this passage, God wants us to develop confidence.
- b. [Heb 4:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- c. [Eph 3:11-12 NASB95] 11 [This was] in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.
- d. The Holy Spirit will help you become more grounded in Christ which in turn will develop confidence in you when you pray.

II. God wants our confidence to be sourced in His Will/Word.

- a. God hears us when we pray His will. How do we know His will? God's Word is God's Will.
- b. [Jhn 15:7 NASB95] 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- c. God is not obligated to honor our word. His Word contains within itself the power to fulfill God's purpose. [Isa 55:11 NASB95] 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding [in the matter] for which I sent it.
- d. Learn to have your prayers based upon the Bible. Literally, be able to connect your prayers with chapter and verse from the Scriptures.
- e. You will need to spend time in the Word to be able to pray in this manner.

III. God wants us to have confidence that He hears us.

- a. God hears our prayers to Him. Many people struggle to believe that God will hear them.
- b. [Psa 34:17 NASB95] 17 [The righteous] cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.
- c. [Jer 29:12-13 NASB95] 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me and find [Me] when you search for Me with all your heart.
- d. [Psa 145:18-19 NASB95] 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.
- e. Resist the lie that God does not hear you. Choose to believe that God hears your prayers. Ask the Holy Spirit to develop the confidence that God hears your prayers.

IV. God wants us to have confidence that He will answer our prayers.

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- a. He wants to answer the prayers we pray in faith according to His Word.
 - b. [Mar 11:24 NASB95] 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.
 - c. We must resist doubt. Doubt is an enemy to our prayers. [Jas 1:6-7 NASB95] 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,
 - d. [Mat 21:22 NASB95] 22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
 - e. God wants to develop a believing heart. You believe that you got before you get it.
- **God wants to develop confidence in prayer so we can always receive from Him the promises He has made to us.**