



Confidence in God

Being confident in this very thing Philippians 1:6



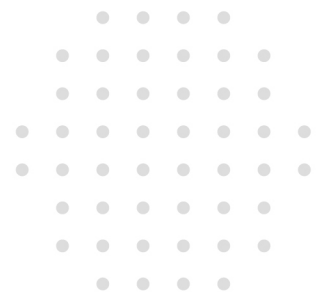
How to Have **Confidence** in Your Prayer Life



Many people question whether their prayers are reaching beyond the ceiling when they continue to pray but see no apparent results or feel any different. When this question arises and persists, they begin losing confidence in the effectiveness of their prayers. If you have ever felt that way, read on for some biblical insight to praying with confidence.

We Do Not Know How to Pray as We Ought

In Romans 8:26, the Apostle Paul explains we do not know how to pray as we ought. Instead, we are to rely upon the Holy Spirit to come to our aid by interceding according to God's will. We can confidently activate that intercession by praying these verses. As an example: "Precious Jesus, I thank You today that Your Holy Spirit intercedes on my behalf as I pray. I do not know how to pray as I ought and I depend on Your precious Holy Spirit to pray according to Your will." Then continue with your concerns and requests.





We Can Come to God in Our Brokenness

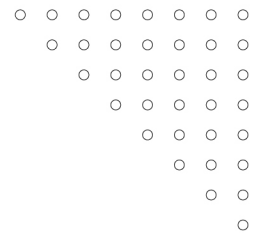
When life's circumstances cause us to feel broken, we often feel we have no power in prayer. In Psalm 31:13, King David confessed similar feelings to God stating, "I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel." We need to do the same when we feel broken. God loves "a broken and a contrite heart" and your broken spirit is a sacrifice to the Lord (Psalm 51:17).

David's prayer in Psalm 31 progressed from confessing his brokenness while trusting the Lord (verses 13-14), to asking for specific help (verses 15-18), to praising God for His goodness (verses 19-22). Then he testified to others about the goodness of God and encouraged them to love the Lord and hope in Him (verses 23-24). When you are feeling powerless in prayer, follow this great example of how to overcome the difficulties in your life.

We Can Ask for Wisdom and Guidance

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth and show us things that will come (John 16:13). James explains we should ask God when we lack wisdom; He will give it to us generously without reprimanding or chastising us (James 1:5). David asked God to guide him by showing him His ways and leading him in His paths and truth (Psalms 25:4-5). And we learn in Proverbs 3:5-6 to trust God and not lean on our own understanding; as we acknowledge Him, He will direct our paths.

When you need practical, focused direction you need only ask the Lord for it. One way to have confidence in such a request is to pray the above scriptures, which might sound something like this: "Lord, thank you for Your precious Holy Spirit that guides me and shows me what to expect. I admit I do not understand this situation and do not know where to go or what steps to take to resolve it. Please give me wisdom. I know you will give it to me generously. Lead me, Lord, down the paths You would have me take. Show me Your ways and the truth in this matter. Precious Jesus, I acknowledge You in this situation and I trust You to direct my path."



We Can Pray Following Biblical Examples

By praying according to biblical examples, we can have confidence in the power of the prayer. Before using a particular biblical prayer, first ask three questions to ensure it applies to the situation you are praying about: 1) What is the person praying for? 2) What are the expected results when the prayer is answered? 3) For whom is the prayer being prayed?

Below are some examples of praying according to prayers in the Bible.

■ Prayer for Continued Spiritual Progress (Philippians 1:9-11): Paul prayed love may abound in the lives of Christians and he expected spiritual love and maturity to be manifested in the lives of the Christians through an increase in spiritual knowledge, moral perception, discernment, and glorifying God.

Example:



Lord, I ask that the love of my family members may abound more and more, increasing their spiritual knowledge so they may recognize your principles as illuminated by the Holy Spirit and apply those principles to their lives in order to walk according to your ways. I pray that abounding love will increase their ability to discern what words and deeds are not merely right or wrong, but that are beneficial to their own lives and the lives of the people they interact with. And I pray their lives will increasingly glorify You and the fruit of the Spirit will grow and mature in their lives.



■ Prayer for Guidance (Jeremiah 42:3-4): Jeremiah prayed for guidance for the people of Judah (believers). He expected God to answer the request by telling him whether or not the remnant of Judah should return to Egypt.

Example:



Lord, show us the way we should walk and the thing that we should do.



■ Prayer for Others to be Counted as Worthy of God's Calling (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12): Paul prayed for believers that God would count them worthy of their calling and He would fulfill His will and complete their every work done in faith. He expected the name of the Lord to be glorified and become more glorious through and in the believers.

Example:



Lord, please count [INSERT NAME] worthy of Your calling and fulfil Your good pleasure, Your will, through her. Work through her with faith and power that Your name may be glorified.



There are many other prayers in the Bible we can pray for ourselves, fellow Christians, and for unbelievers. When we do so we can have confidence in the power of such prayers.

If you would like more details about having a biblical concept of praying with confidence and more samples of prayers, please see confidenceingod.com and read **Practical Guidance for More Confidence in Prayer**, **Practical Guidance for Praying Powerful Prayers for Others**, and **The Truth About God's Desire to Save Unbelievers**.