

Praying Effectively

James 4:3 "You ask and ye receive not, because ye ask amiss..." . The definition of amiss: in the wrong way.

Ye ask and ye receive not because ye ask in the wrong way.

Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord..."

HUMILITY

The word "humility" is derived from the Latin word "humus" which means "of the earth". The original meaning suggests that one put their face down in the dirt, submitting themselves to the authority of another without personal pride; being non-assuming, unpretentious, conscious of one's shortcomings, not self-assertive, not proud.

2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray... then will I hear from heaven..."

James 4:10 "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord..."

1 Peter 5:5 "...God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God..."

Matthew 18:4 "Humble yourself as a child..."

Micah 6:8 "He hath shewed thee O man what is good and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Biblical examples of praying with humility or pride:

Centurion – Matthew 8: 5-10, 13

Meshach, Shadrach, Abednego – Daniel 3: 8-18 (verses 17, 18)

Publican and Sinner – Luke 18: 10-14

Rich Young Ruler – Mark 10: 17-31; Mark 10: 13-16

Matthew 19:16-30; Matthew 19:13-15

Luke 18:18-30; Luke 18: 15-17

Ten suggestions on how to develop a humble heart:

1. Maintain the right perspective of how great God is – (omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent) and how little we are in His sight.
2. Pray for a humble heart.
3. Thank God often – thankfulness stops pride from growing.
4. Confess your sins to God regularly.
5. Listen to others.
6. Consider others' needs as well as your own. **Philippians 2:4** "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Don't be self-centered)"
7. Don't worry about status. **Romans 12:3** "For I say ... to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..."
8. Have a sense of humor and don't take yourself so seriously.
9. Ask questions
10. A good quote: "humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."

MERCY

Kindness, in excess of what may be expected; refraining from punishing; a disposition to forgive and be kind; compassionate treatment; pity

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Lamentations 3:22 "It is of the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not."

Psalms 52:8 "...I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever."

Biblical examples of asking for mercy when praying:

Luke 17:12-14 – 10 lepers healed

Mark 10:46-52 – Bartimaeus – Historical reference of "casting away his garment."

The garment was given to the blind man to signify that he couldn't work; that he was a beggar; had nothing to offer and no purpose. The garment signified his identity.

Matthew 13:21-28 – Syrophenician woman healed

Mercy incorporates humility, which moves the heart of God.