



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: A Prayer Tune-Up

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Kansas leaders have concluded a most trying legislative session, wrestling with our ongoing economic and budget crises. Many faced difficult election challenges caused by court imposed redistricting. There were many opportunities for prayer. A prayer tune-up seems in order!

INTRODUCTION

Most people pray but express concern about their answers. There is a common response to our questions about results. God answers prayer with: yes, no, or not yet! The first step in a prayer tune-up is to make sure that the Heavenly Father recognizes you as a family member. Fathers bless their own kids first!

A PRAYER THAT IS ALWAYS ANSWERED.

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile —the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”¹

This same promise is repeated in the Scriptures over a dozen times. Like a check from a bank, a gift has no value unless it is accepted. Have you accepted Jesus' payment for your sin debt? 20th Century cowboy-philosopher Will Rogers cautioned: “It is ok to make peace with God between the saddle and the ground but you ought to consider it sooner.”²

WHY PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS?

John 14:13 “And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”³

Would any of us face a judge without legal counsel? Jesus offers to intercede for us (Mark 16:17, John 14:14, 15:7, 15:16, 16:23-24). Jesus, our counselor, is the favorite Son of the Judge! Andrew Murray,⁴ in his classic text on prayer, reminds us of the intimate relationship that Jesus shared with His Father: “***I knew that Thou hearest me always***” (John 11:42). Jesus reminds us: “***All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth***” (Matthew 28:18).

TIPS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER.

1. Pray the Word: ***God's Word is alive, dynamic, and powerful*** (Hebrews 4:12). When facing a great trial pray: “***Lord, help me to be anxious about nothing and give me Your peace that passes all understanding as I keep my thoughts on Christ Jesus***” (Philippians 4:6-7).
2. Check your relationships: How close have you been with your heavenly Father? Have you been a good son or daughter? “***Who of you if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone***” (Matthew 7:9b)? How is your relationship to your spouse, your neighbor, or co-worker? “***Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God***” (Matthew 5:24).
3. Try fasting over the time that you are in desperate prayer: “***The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free***” (Isaiah 58:6). Skip a meal, abstain from a favorite food, or go on a liquid diet for a day or more. This helps you focus on prayer.

A PRAYER

Father God, please help me to trust You with my life and those that You have put in my care for a season. Keep me close to You and bless all that I say and do, for Your Word says that “blessed are those who call upon the Lord”. I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 1984.

² <http://www.cmgww.com/historic/rogers/quotes5.htm>

³ The Holy Bible, New King James Version. (Deuel Enterprises, Inc.) 1994.

⁴ Andrew Murray. With Christ in the School of Prayer. (Fleming H. Revell Co.) 1895.