

# Study Sheet: Asking the Right Questions in Prayer

Based on Matthew 7:7-11 & James 4:1-3

## Overview of the Sermon

Prayer is not about asking for anything we want and expecting God to fulfill our wishes like a blank check. Instead, it is about persistently seeking God's will, aligning our desires with His, and asking the right questions. Many times, we don't receive answers because we ask with the wrong motives or focus on our own desires instead of God's plans. Effective prayer requires surrender, trust, and a willingness to listen.

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## Key Points

- 1. Prayer Requires Persistence**
    - Matthew 7:7-8 teaches us to keep asking, seeking, and knocking. Prayer is about consistency and growing closer to God.
    - God desires for us to trust Him, even when the answer is “no” or “not yet.”
  - 2. Motives Matter in Prayer**
    - James 4:3 warns that we do not receive when we ask with selfish intentions.
    - We often focus on what we want instead of what God desires for us.
    - True prayer shifts our focus from “what I want” to “what God wills.”
  - 3. Prayer is About Relationship, Not Demands**
    - The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) focuses on honoring God, seeking His kingdom, and depending on Him for our needs.
    - Prayer is not just asking—it's praising, listening, and aligning our hearts with God.
  - 4. Trusting God's Plans Over Our Own**
    - Many times, we make our own plans and then ask God to approve them instead of seeking His guidance first.
    - Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to trust in the Lord rather than relying on our understanding.
  - 5. Drawing Closer to God Brings Clarity**
    - When we spend time with God daily, we better understand His will.
    - The more we pray and seek Him, the more our hearts align with what He desires.
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## Reflective Questions

1. Have I been persistent in my prayers, or do I give up when I don't get an immediate answer?
2. Am I asking God for things with the right motives, or am I focused on my own desires?
3. Do I truly trust God's plan, or am I just looking for His approval of my own plans?

4. How can I deepen my relationship with God through prayer, beyond just asking for things?
  5. What is one way I can shift my prayers from “**What do I want?**” to “**What does God have for me today?**”
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## Action Steps

1. **Start Each Prayer with Worship**
    - Before asking for anything, spend time praising God for who He is.
  2. **Ask God for His Will, Not Just Your Wants**
    - Instead of asking God to approve your plans, pray: “*Lord, what do You want me to do?*”
  3. **Listen More in Prayer**
    - Take time to be still and listen for God’s direction instead of rushing through prayers.
  4. **Seek God’s Wisdom Daily**
    - Read Scripture daily to understand God’s desires. Proverbs, Psalms, and the Gospels are great places to start.
  5. **Pray for Opportunities to Serve**
    - Instead of only praying for personal needs, ask God: “*How can I be part of Your work today?*”
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## Conclusion

Prayer is not just about asking—it’s about growing in relationship with God, seeking His will, and trusting that His plans are always best. Instead of demanding our way, we should be asking, “*Lord, what wondrous thing do You have for me today?*”