

ANSWERED PRAYER EVERY TIME

Pastor Katy Reeves

We're going to start with James. Let's look at **James Chapter 1** and we're going to start with **verse 5**. It says,

If any of you is deficient in wisdom let him ask of the giving God, who gives to everyone liberally and ungrudging without reproaching, without faultfinding and it will be given him. Only it must be in faith that he asked with no wavering, no hesitating, no doubting for the one who hesitate and doubts is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything he asks from the Lord. For being as he is, a man or woman of two minds, hesitating, dubious, irresolute, he is unstable, he's unreliable, uncertain about everything he thinks, feels and decides.

That's a lot to take in. What I want you to notice. Our God is a giving God. Isn't that good? He's a giving God. He loves to give. He gave His only begotten Son for us. He gave Jesus. Jesus gave his life so we could have eternal life. Our God is a giving God. He's a good God. Giving is His idea. What's the Bible say? He gives liberally. He's not stingy. Oh no. He gives liberally. He gives more than you could ever ask, think or imagine. That's how he gives. That's how good He is. And guess what? He doesn't mind you asking. It's His idea. He wants you to ask. Isn't the Holy Spirit awesome? The Word that went forth. Ask, ask. Awesome.

But there's a way to ask. Did you see that? No doubting. There's no doubting. You have to ask in faith. You can't be double minded. So, that's seems to be the approach to the problem. Well, does God heal today? Well, some people get healed. Some people don't. Does God provide my needs? Sometimes He does, sometimes He don't. It's confusing. Double minded. You have to know what you believe and then you have to act on that belief. You can't be looking at the winds and the waves. You have to be firmly settled in your heart of what you believe. So, what are we're going to have to believe? Well, this is the only thing to believe. The Word of God. That's the only thing that's a firm foundation.

I wrestled with this because there's so much information but I'm just going to tell you there's seven different kinds of prayer. In the Bible, you can find seven different kinds of prayer. I like to say it as a protocol. There's a protocol. Our God lives in heaven and the culture of heaven. There are ways that God wants things done. How many of us want to find out what they are and we want to do it His way. So this prayer or protocol and it's how you approach the King of the Universe correctly so you can get the requests that you make. Let's look at Ephesians 6:18, which is proof that there are different kinds of prayers.

Pray at all times on every occasion, in every season, in the spirit with all manner of prayer and entreaty.

The little word all must mean there must be more than one. With all, there's more than one. It's all or nothing. Well, all means there's more than one so there's more than one kind of prayer and there's more than one way to approach the King of the Universe with your request.

Seven Ways to Pray

Prayer of Petition or the Prayer of Faith - that's the prayer that you mainly use for yourself and for your personal needs. Why? Because you know what you can believe for. You can't use the prayer of faith for somebody else unless it's Prayer of Agreement, that's another one. When it's the Prayer of Agreement and when your faith is both in agreement, it's a boost to the Prayer of Faith.

Let me give you an example right here. I was on the prayer chain in my last church I attended and we got a prayer request that this man was real sick in the hospital. The woman that submitted the request, she just knew this man and she wanted us to pray for his healing. So, everybody was praying and I prayed but I didn't pray in the Spirit. I was praying the Prayer of Faith, thinking my faith could heal him. And I believed. I spoke and I believed and I asked the Lord that he would be healed and God would get the glory. Well, he died. And, it was like a week or so later, I find out that he died. And I'm like, what's the deal, Lord? Because I prayed the Prayer of Faith. Well, come to find out, the man wanted to die. He was an old man. He was tired. He wanted to die. He was ready to go to heaven. Do you see how that can destroy somebody's faith all because I prayed incorrectly? You can't pray the Prayer of Faith for somebody else. You have to find out where their faith is and you can agree with them, where their faith is. Like if somebody believes for a surgery. I'm believing that God will see me through this surgery and then I'll recover. Well, then you can agree with that and that's what will happen but you can't pray that she'll be supernaturally healed if that's not where her faith is.

Prayer of Agreement is a boost to the Prayer of Faith.

Prayer of Supplication and the Prayer of Intercession. These are prayers that you pray for other people. You really need to pray in the spirit and then in the understanding. Once you get the will of God, we're getting there.

Prayer of Consecration. Jesus prayed this prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. It's the only time that you ever use the words, if it be Thy Will. That's the only time you use those words because you're consecrating yourself to the work of God and you want to find out, like Jesus

said, if it's possible for this cup to pass from me, let it pass but nevertheless, not my will but Your Will. That's the Prayer of Consecration.

Praying in the Spirit, which is praying in your prayer language.

United Prayer or Corporate Prayer, where everybody comes together and it's like on Wednesday night, where we pray for the country. United Prayer.

So, that's the seven different kinds of prayer or different protocols or the different ways that you approach the King of the Universe, with your petitions and praying for yourself and others.

There are different kinds of rules that govern these different kinds of prayers. So, it's kind of like if I had a basketball and I said, hey, let's go play some baseball but all I have is a basketball and we're going to try to play baseball with the basketball. We're going to use basketball rules to play baseball. How many know you can't do that? That's why you have to follow the correct rules to approach God about different things.

Let's watch Jesus now. Let's turn to Matthew 6. How many know He's our best example and we'll watch Him as He works these protocols, how He prays. **Matthew 6:9-10**

Jesus said, Pray therefore like this. Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed or kept holy be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Your Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Okay, we're going to stop here and camp a little while. Did you notice He started out by addressing the Father and that's what we have to do. The correct protocol and Jesus said in John, in that day you're not going to ask me anything. You're going to ask the Father, in My Name and He'll do whatever you ask. But you've got to ask Him, the Father, in My Name. So, notice, Jesus said, Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. So, see He acknowledged God as the King of the Universe because You're the one in heaven. He honored Him. Hallowed be your Name. So, you address the Father in Jesus' Name. You acknowledge who He is. You praise Him for who He is. Then, Jesus said, Thy Will be done. That is step number one to get your prayers answered every time you approach God. You have got to find out what His Will is concerning the issue or situation that you're praying about. You've got to find out what His Will says. What is Your Will? Because that comes before asking. See, if I would've found out what the will was for that man, I would have found out that he didn't want healing. So, we've got to find out what God's Will is before you ask. Let me prove it. **Ephesians 5:17**

Therefore do not be vague. Do not be thoughtless and foolish but understanding and firmly grasping what the Will of the Lord is.

See, I was foolish because I hadn't firmly grasped what God wanted to do in that situation. I mean, God probably wanted to heal him but he didn't want healing. If I'd took the time, instead of being presumptuous. Oh, woman of great faith, I'm going to pray him into perfect health. If I'd taken time to find out, well, Lord, what's going on here? Then, I'd known and wouldn't have been foolish. I'd known how to pray correctly.

We have a responsibility. When somebody calls on you to pray, we don't need to be flippant about it. Oh, yeah, I'll pray. No, we have a responsibility to find out what God wants to do. What God is going to be allowed to do. God will never override a person's will. So, we've got to find out, okay, what do You want to do. Isn't that what Jesus did? He always knew what God wanted to do and then He knew what to believe and then He knew how to act. Let's look at another one. 1 John 5:14:

And this is the confidence. This is the assurance and the privilege of boldness, which we have in Him, in Jesus. We are assured if we ask anything, according to His Will and agreement with His own plan, He listens to us and He hears us.

I mean, we can't get much plainer than that. It's the confidence you have. Once you know God's Will, then you can pray and ask according to His Will. I mean, if He wants it done, it's a done deal if everybody's in agreement. Ignorance of the scriptures is the main reason why people pray wrong and they don't get the answers that they seek. We as believers, as children of God, have got to know what His Word says.

I'm going to give you another example. There was this minister and he had just been teaching on healing and this woman came up and she had the Bible open to some healing scripture. Well, she just threw her Bible down and she said, that don't work. He's like, what do you mean? She said, it don't work. He said, Well, why do you say it don't work? She said, Because I had the elders come and anoint me with oil and pray over me and I'm still sick. They don't work. He said, Well, all right, let's go back. What exactly did they do? She said, I went up to the front of the church, they got their anointing oil, they anointed me oil and they said, If it be Your Will to heal this woman, she'll be healed. Does anybody know what went wrong there? If it be your Will. There was no faith in the prayer. She didn't follow the right protocol.

You got to know that it is God's Will to heal. That's why Jesus came. That's why He took stripes on His back. Those stripes paid for our healing. That's why we can walk in divine health. Because she didn't understand the protocol, it just bomb shelled her faith. Saying that the Word of God don't work. The Word of God always works. Every time it works. The problem is us. God is never the problem. If you're not getting your prayers answered, if you're having a hell of a time in your life, it's not God. It's not His fault. He has provided everything for us. He's a good God. He's the giving God. And He has provided ways if you would just find out.

Why do you think He wants that? Because He loves you. Think about it. The God of the entire universe, who created the stars and everything, loves you and He just wants you to spend a little time with Him, just to get to know Him. Just to find out how He likes things done. That's all He wants and if you would just do it His way, we would reap many, many rewards. The Word says, Those that diligently seek, He is a rewarder. He is a rewarder when you seek Him out.

I want to make a distinction right here. The first step is finding the Will of God. The second step is going to be asking but in finding the Will of God, you've got to find out, do I need to ask for it in prayer or do I need to speak to the mountain? The basis for this is Mark 11:23 says to ask and Mark 11:24 says to speak to the mountain. We're going to see in several different instances how He follows the different protocols. Sometimes you have to find out what God's Will is. Do I ask for it in prayer or do I speak to the mountain or circumstance or sickness?

So how do you find the Will of God? You have to make it a daily habit to have personal time with the Lord. It's not enough just to come to church on Sunday and Wednesday. You've got to make a habit of walking with God. That's really the only way you get to know somebody. I mean, if you're trying to court somebody and you just see them once a week and don't talk to them any other time, you're not going to get to know them that good. I mean, when my husband was courting me, we had our schedule down. Monday, he'd call because he had a welding school and he didn't have a phone back in the woods where he lived so when he come to welding school, he'd call me. Then, on Wednesdays, he'll come down and see me. Then, on Friday night, we'll go out. Saturday night we'll go out. Sunday, I'd go up to his house. See, we spent some time together. It was Tuesday and Thursday that we didn't talk to one another. We got to know one another so when he'd call, I would recognize his voice. I knew what he would do. We got to be that way with our God. You just can't do it once a week.

Then, the next thing, as you're spending all this time with God, of course you're going to be renewing your mind. You're going to be in the Word. You're going to be talking with Him about what He says in the Bible. You're going to be listening. You're going to be renewing your mind with what the Scriptures says and it's going to change the way you think and how you see things. It's going to change the way you react to the situations in your life.

Then, a very important thing is praying in your spirit language. Why? Because the Bible says that it builds you up on your most holy faith. It strengthened you. It really does. I know whenever I worked at Shoney's in Tulsa. My husband was going to Bible college and I was working at Shoney's as a waitress and my goodness, they had some cussing waiters and waitresses. I mean, they had this one girl and all she said was the F bomb. I mean, every other word and so, at the end of my shift, I'm there rolling silverware and it's like, that's all I'm hearing. And I just went to prayer in the spirit, under my breath, just to clean my mind. Just to

build my spirit up from being in the middle of that so pray in the spirit. Because when you pray in the spirit, you can hear from God so easy. Very important.

And, then, another thing, you have personal times of praise and worship of singing to Him and praising Him and worshiping Him. Just you and Him. It's like you go out on a special date, just you and Jesus. So, once you do all of that, say you have a situation going on in your life. You don't know to pray. Then you ask Him and you find a scripture. You find out what His Word says. Of course, your mind is already renewed so you're going to know but you ask Him and He'll show you a scripture you can stand on. Then, you're ready to ask. It's basically having an intimate personal relationship with God. By doing that, you'll always know the will of God. Let's look at Matthew 6 and we're going to look down at verse 11. We've read nine and ten.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Now, He's asking, isn't He? Do you see how He's doing it, the protocol? Now, He's asking, Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors and bring us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.

He's ending it with praise. So, He's telling us we've got to ask. We've got to ask for our daily bread. We ask for our needs. Forgive us our debts. We ask for forgiveness and help in putting us back in a right standing with Him when we missed it, when we slip up. So that we can be in that good position with Him again. What else? Help in living right and lastly, protection. See, those things you can ask for because it's right there. Jesus says this is the way you should pray. You can ask for your daily needs. You can ask for protection. You can ask for help in living right and living for Him. That's good news!

Let's look at **John 15:7**. This is the how.

If you live in Me, abide vitality and united to Me and my words remain in you. They continue to live in your hearts. Ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you.

Notice. If you're living in Him and His words are living in you, you're not going to be asking, O Lord, I saw this man the other day and I want to marry him. I know he's married but you can fix it. No! You're not going to asking for something like that. Why? Because you're living in Him and His words are living in you. All you want is His plan. That's why He said you can ask whatever you will. This is another level you can get to. Living in Him and His words are living in you. You can ask what you will because it's going to be His will. That's all you should care about. What He wants.

James 4:1-3:

What leads to strife, discord and feuds? And how do conflicts, fightings originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members? You are jealous and covet what others have and your desires go unfulfilled. So, you become murderers. To hate is murder as far as your hearts are concerned. You burn with envy and anger and are not able to obtain the gratification, the contentment and happiness that you seek. So you fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask. Or, you do ask God for them and yet fail to receive because you ask with wrong purpose and evil selfish motives. Your intention is when you get what you desire to spend in sensual pleasures.

We don't want to live like this, do we? We want to live back in the other scripture. We abide in Him and His words abide in us. Remember, faith works by love. Every step out of love you take, you don't have no faith working.

It's like this. Love is like the battery. It charges your faith. If your battery is run down, it's just out of power. There is no love. There's nothing to power your faith. You've got to keep your love built up and how do you that? If you abide in Jesus, He is love. You'll be overflowing with love if you abide in Him and His words abide in you.

Now, by asking, that gives our God a legal access into your situation. Remember, it's all about the protocol. We've got to follow the protocol and when we ask Him for whatever, then it's giving Him a legal access to come in and handle your situation because He is a gentleman. It's kind of like when Joshua Shane was real little and learning how to walk and we had a bunch of lumber piled up when my husband was building our house. And, Joshua had this little walking toy that he was learning how to walk with and he was trying to put it up on that stack of lumber. And he got it up there and took a few steps, well, then the lumber shifted and down he went. He tumbled down onto the slab of the house. Well, my husband was out by the shed and so Joshua got up and kind of looked around and nobody saw him, he was okay. If somebody saw him, he would have been crying. But if he would have asked for some help, his daddy would've helped him and he wouldn't have tumbled down but he was just trying to do it by himself and, so, he tumbled down. But his daddy was always there, watching him. If he would have needed him, he would've rushed to his aid. The Lord's like that. He's always watching you and He's listening for your cry, Lord, help me. Lord, I ask and there's He's at, right there.

Lord, I'm asking. Those are powerful words. Don't be hoping and praying. You have to believe and pray. When you know God's Will, you can ask the Father in faith.

Luke 11:1 - This is Luke's account of the Lord's prayer.

Then He was praying in a certain place and when He stopped, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples. And He said to them, When you pray, say Our Father, who is in heaven. Hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come. Your Will be done. Your Will be held holy and revered on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread, food for the morrow. And forgive us our sins for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us or who has offended us or done us wrong. And bring us not into temptation but rescue us from evil.

Okay, that's the Lord's Prayer. Now listen to the story He says right after this.

And He said to them, Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and will say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves of bread for a friend of mine who is on a journey has just come and I have nothing to put before him. And he, from within, will answer you. Do not disturb me. The door is now closed and my children are in bed with me. I cannot get up and supply you with anything. I tell you. Although he will not get up and supply him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his shameless persistence and his insistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs. Ask, and keep on asking and it shall be given you. Seek and keep on seeking and you shall find. Knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you for everyone who asks and keep on asking, receives. And everyone who seeks and keeps on seeking finds. And to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened.

We have to know God's Will and we've got to ask. The next thing is you've got to seek and you've got to knock. Seeking is all about expectations because when you're looking for something, what are you doing? Well, you're expecting to find it, aren't you? You wouldn't be looking for it if you weren't expecting to find it. So, you've got to be expecting. It's believing that you have received. You know His Will, you prayed in faith, you're believing that you have received it. You're seeking it, you're looking for it, and you're expecting it. It's nothing that you do. That's not it. It's nothing that you do. It's faith. It's believing that you have received it. You're expecting the answer. You're expecting the manifestation and every time you think about it you thank God because you've already received it. That's what faith is. You've asked, God's given it to you but you don't actually have it but you received it. So you thank Him for it.

James 2:17

So also faith if it does not have works, it doesn't have deeds and action of obedience to back it up by itself is destitute of power. It's inoperative. It's dead.

Faith without works is dead. So, the knocking is action. Now, can you picture this? Back in the Jewish culture, if somebody comes to your house, either somebody you know or a stranger, then it was just their custom to open their home and put some sort of food before them and to

offer them the comforts of their home, if they need a place to stay the night or whatever. So, we see that this is what happened in this story. A friend of theirs had taken a journey and they just get there at midnight and they don't have any food. They don't have any bread made. They don't have anything to put out for them. This is bad because they're supposed to do that. So, he goes to his friend's house and starts knocking, knocking and knocking. And his friend said he wasn't getting out of bed but he keeps knocking and knocking until finally the friend gets up and gives him what he wants, not because he was his friend but because of the shameless way he was asking. That's how God wants us to be. He loves that kind of behavior. The Bible says to come boldly in to My throne room. Why? Because you're His children. You can come into His throne room, boldly. Climb up on His lap and tell Him your problems. Find out what He wants to do about it and then go do what He wants to do.

Let's watch Jesus. Please read **John 17**. Jesus follows this protocol right down the line.

See, that's His plan. Do you see how He prayed? He addressed the Father. Notice the words, the hour has come. What does that tell you? He knew the will of God. He knew the exact time it was in the plan. He knew that the plan was about to be fulfilled. So, He knew the will of God. He asked. Glorify Your Son so that You can be glorified. He's all about glorifying the Father. So, we can all be one united happy family, which is what He wanted from the very beginning. Notice the prayer petition and the prayer of supplication and intercession. Was His prayer answered? Oh, yes. Was He glorified? Yes, He was glorified. Did He bring glory to the Father? Oh, yes. Was their plan fulfilled? Definitely.

Now, look at another way. This is a different protocol. **Matthew 14:19**

Then He ordered the crowds to recline on the grass and He took the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven he gave thanks and blessed and broke the loaves and handed the pieces to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the people. And, they all ate and were satisfied. And they picked up 12 small hand baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

Notice what He did here. Everyone knows the story. He had just finished a pretty long teaching session and they were out in a remote place and the crowd was huge and He didn't want to send them off hungry. So, He found what they had, which are some loaves and fishes. A small lunch. A happy meal because it was the boy's lunch. What did Jesus do? He looked up to heaven and He said, Oh Father, You are so good. Remember, He already prayed for His daily bread and what did He have? A happy meal. So, He said, Father You are so good. Thank you for meeting my needs and providing this food. He then blesses the happy meal. Loaves, be multiplied to feed this crowd. Fishes, be multiplied and feed this crowd. Then, He starts breaking it off and handing it off to the people so He putting His faith with action. He's not saying, okay God, rain it down from heaven. No, He putting action and the disciples are passing

it out and before you know it, everyone gets filled with fish and bread. The happy meal fed a multitude. A miracle happened. Why? Because He followed the correct protocol.

One other and then we're going to close. **Luke 4:38**

Then He arose and left the synagogue and went into Simon Peter's house. Now, Simon's mother-in-law was suffering in the grip of a burning fever and they pleaded with Him for her. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever and it left her. And, immediately she got up and began waiting on them.

Do you see the protocol here? Now, Jesus knows the Will of God always because He would get up in the wee hours in the morning and spend hours alone with God. He would stay up after He ministered all day. Six, seven hours praying while the disciples are struggling trying to get across the lake, He's praying. He knows the will of God. Notice, He went into the house and probably heard the mother-in-law was sick with the fever that had been lingering for a long time. So, what happened? They asked Him, can you come look at her? That's what we have to do. We can't just charge in somewhere and say, God's going to do this. Not if that person doesn't ask you for help. He wants us to ask. So, they asked and He immediately responded and went to her and touched her. He didn't pray and beg God to heal her. He just spoke to the fever and it left and she was healed.

I challenge you to find one place where Jesus asked God, heal this person. I haven't found it. Why? Because Jesus understood the Jews had a covenant with God and that covenant provided healing so He knew healing was hers. But that fever had evaded and trying to steal what God had already provided so He just stepped in because He was asked and He enforced the covenant rights that already belonged to her and spoke to the fever. We have to speak to things. Sometimes you ask in prayer and sometimes you speak to the mountain. Jesus spoke to the fever and the fever left.

Notice the protocol. He waited and asked to be invited in to help. Then He laid hands upon the woman, He spoke to the fever, it left and there was a miracle. Answered prayer.

Summary:

1. Find out God's Will by spending time with Him.
2. Ask the Father in Jesus' Name in faith.
3. Seek and be expecting.
4. Knock and be shameless about it.