

Short Answer Series # 9

How can I get the Lord's help when I need it?

‘..by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.’

Philippians 4v6. Prayer is the way the Lord has provided for us to let Him know of our needs. In Matthew 21v22 the Lord Jesus promised, ‘And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, *believing*, ye shall receive.’ All things covers *anything* we could ever ask for or need. And we all want our prayers answered. But, there are conditions that will help or hinder us. 1 John 5v14 says ‘And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.’ But if I ask for a thousand dollars to go to a casino with, I know I *won’t* receive it, because it isn’t according to His Will. And in 1 John 3v22 we are told ‘And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.’ What happens if we know that things we do *aren’t* pleasing to Him? Our heart (our conscience) will condemn us when we pray. It is important to be absolutely right with Him always, to have the confidence to know He hears us when we speak. Sin came between us and the Lord *before* we were saved, and it will *always* come between us, and interrupt our fellowship. So, do keep short accounts with Him, and always confess and make right any sin as soon as possible. If we know that there is nothing in our lives to hinder our prayer, then ‘Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask we receive of Him,...’ 1 John 3v21-22.

When we ask Him to help us with a need then we must trust Him to fulfil it, and not help Him, or answer it for Him. As an example; if you are overwhelmed with housework, because you are a solo parent, or a busy parent, or even a working single, and you have asked Him to provide help with it, then don’t arrange for someone else to help you. Because you have answered the prayer yourself, and will no longer need Him to. Or, if you find that you are struggling financially every week, and you ask the Lord to provide more for you, in whatever way He chooses, then trust Him to do it. But, if you start using your tithes to pay your bills, then you won’t need the Lord’s help any longer, because you have sorted it yourself. The wrong way. Always be faithful to Him, and He will always be faithful to you. ‘I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.’ Psalm 37v25.

Our attitude is important as well. 1 Thessalonians 5v18 tells us ‘In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.’ So we must thank the Lord for any situation we find ourselves in, whether good or bad. As in the examples above; if it is overwork, or lack of finances, nothing can happen to us in our lives unless He personally allows it to. And if He allows it, then it becomes His Will by virtue of Him allowing it. Do we want to walk in the Will of God? If we only want the good, the easy, and the comfortable, then we are only wanting half the Will of God. The Scripture above said ‘In everything give thanks,’ the sweet and the sour, ‘for this is the Will of God.’

If we complain about something that is happening in our lives, then we are complaining about (against) the Will of God, and telling Him we don’t want His Will. But we *must* believe that ‘All things work together for good to those who love God.’ Romans 8v28. Is that us? Yes, it is! So, when you have a need, firstly, thank and praise Him for the situation (which places it in His able hands), then, ‘By prayer...let your requests be made known unto God.’ And trust Him to answer, and be faithful to His own Word. Which He will, unless there is a good reason why He shouldn’t. If you are overworked because *you* have taken too much on, He may ask you to give some up, which is His answer. James 4v3 says ‘Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.’ But He does provide all our needs, and when we ask anything according to His Will He hears us, and answers.