

“Credit Card” Prayers Written By: Jim Wyatt

Do you use prayer as a kind of "spiritual credit card?" Lots of people do; they assume that all we have to do is ask God for whatever physical things we want, and He will provide them ("interest-free," we hope!). Most of us are familiar with promises like the one Jesus made in Matthew 7:7-8, where we are told "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened." This statement, and others like it in the bible do not promise blessings for us without "cost" or responsibility; Jesus isn't offering us a "buy-now, pay-later" plan! When we pray, our prayers should reflect what God wants as well as what we want. James 4:3 tells struggling Christians that the reason they did not receive the things they prayed for was because their motives were selfish; they weren't thinking about God's will, only what they wanted to satisfy their lust.

Prayer gives us an ideal opportunity to focus on God and all the good things He provides us. In Romans 8:26, those Christians were told, "the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Please notice; that statement is followed by God telling us that "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord" (Romans 8:28). Neither praying nor our relationship to God gives us "diplomatic immunity" from problems, but prayer does provide us an opportunity to bring good things out of awful situations.

God never promised that we will not have needs or problems in life. Nothing in God's inspired word indicates that we will somehow be "insulated" or "isolated" from death, disease, poverty or any number of other things that common to our physical world simply because we are Christians. What we are told in God's word is that help is available. Through prayer, Christians have a way to deal with the problems that come our way as we live day by day. We all know that there is a war going on between good and evil in our lives: In Romans 7 and 8, Paul describes his own personal struggle in trying to live life Christ's way. Christians can (and do!) still make mistakes and do bad things. Paul shows us here that there is a battle raging within us, between the lusts of the flesh and the Spirit, and that if we "Walk in the Spirit...we shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Ephesians 3 tells us that our existence is rooted in the larger cosmic battle going on all around us (of which we are also part).

So, what about prayer? Are you "investing" in heaven (Matthew 6:20-21), using prayer to "let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6)? Do you "cast your cares upon Him for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7), or do you pray only when you want something you can't "pay" for right now? God is not some "heavenly banker" Who hands out blessings to put us in His debt; we're already there because of His mercy! Beware of trying to "spend" what you don't have (James 4:2-3). Being part of Christ's church means that prayer is a very "practical" blessing for us to enjoy. Our prayers are heard by Someone Who truly has our well-being in mind, Who wants to help us by giving us freely everything we need (Romans 8:32). Prayer is not merely a "heavenly line of credit," it is an open door to the throneroom of God. He does not sit there waiting to "zap" us with confiscatory interest rates and penalties; He knows what we truly need even before we ask (Matthew 6:8), and His goal is for us to be victorious in our war with temptation and sin. The key is for us to live our lives for Him, and not simply for ourselves. In regular, daily prayer we have access to a Higher Power, and if we walk with Him we will have whatever we need.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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November 13, 2016



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Will Vann, Preacher

863-899-0987

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Lesson #4
What To Say

(cold door knocking)

- 1) "Good morning sir, how are you today? (his response) We are on a campaign for Christ, sharing the gospel with people. We would like to share with you a very interesting Bible study. For instance how would you answer the first question on #8 (of Lesson #1)?" (his response)
- 2) "Would you like to see what the Bible says?" (his response) (Have him read the scripture.) (note: Have him to also read and answer the second and third questions)
- 3) "This is a three lesson study to help you to understand what God's will is so that you can go to heaven. We would be happy to go through these three lessons with you. Would you like to do that?" (his response)
- 4) "We could study now or this evening at 7:00 PM, which would you prefer?"

(to friends)

"John, there has been something I've been wanting to talk with you about for some time and that is your relationship with God and your soul's salvation. I feel guilty for not having talked with you yet and I'm sorry. John if you were to die tonight do you know for certain that you would have a home in Heaven?" (Wait for his answer.) "I can share with you from the Bible how you can go to Heaven, would you like that?" (His response.) "We could study now or tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM, which would you prefer?"

Or "John you're a very fine individual and I appreciate you as a friend. You are honest, kind to your family, and a good person; but you are not a Christian. You may have wondered why I haven't talked with you before, but I just can't continue without talking with you. Have you thought much about where you will spend eternity?" (His response.) "I would like to share with you a very interesting Bible study. For instance how would you answer question #8 (of Lesson #1)?" (His response.) Would you like to see what the Bible says?" (His response.) (Have him to read the scripture.) "This is a three lesson study to help you to understand what God's will is so that you can go to Heaven. We would be happy to go through these three lessons

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Those to Serve

- (B) Doug Pruett (FV) Vernon Houts
(O) Mike Mallett (A) Kyle Stifflemire
1st prayer Jack Wall
2nd prayer Jeffrey Burks
Announcements: Keith Stifflemire
Singing: Judd Wall

Prayer List:

Naomi Wall
Mildred Lovell
Janese Lancaster
Ruby Jones
Lloyd Crownover
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personal

Dates to Remember

- November 11th**
Veterans Day
November 24th
Thanksgiving Day
December 4th
Mission Sunday

Happy Birthday

To

- Theresa Pruett November 14th**
Calvin Burks November 26th
Linda Houts November 28th
Lynette Vann December 14th

Lesson #4
What To Say

(continued)

with you. Would you like to do that?" (His response.) "We could study now or this evening at 7:00 PM, which would you prefer?"

Or "John we are going to one of two places in eternity, I want to go to Heaven, which place do you want to go?" (His response) "I can share with you from the Bible how you can go to Heaven, would you like that?" (His response.) We could study tonight or tomorrow night at 7:00 PM, which would you prefer?"

Or if asked, "Do you believe that only members of the church of Christ are going to Heaven and everyone else is going to Hell?" Your answer, "John, it does not really matter what I believe, or what you believe, or what any other person believes. What really matters is what the Bible says you need to do to go to Heaven. Could I share with you what the Bible says that you need to do in order to go to Heaven?"