

Why We Should Pray As Requested

3+3

Three Times A Day; We Will Pray For Three Things

Why?

(NIV84) Mt 18:18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

(NIV84) Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

(NIV84) Jas 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- A. Prayer makes things happen
- B. *All Kinds of Prayers*. Thanksgiving, petition, intercession, praise, repentance. Brief prayers. Long prayers. Written prayers. Spontaneous prayers. Corporate prayers. Private prayers.
- C. *For All the Saints*. Too many of our prayers are all about us.
- D. We are to pray
 1. For full obedience to our God
 2. Our strength to equal our days
 3. That we live long and prosper

I. Why Obedience?

- A. To Obey is God's #1 Command

TO OBEY IS GOD'S #1 COMMAND

1. What is the greatest commandment?

(NIV84) Mt 22:35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All

the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

(NIV84) Dt 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS ARE RELATED TO A FAILURE TO OBEY GOD!

B. Obedience is the foundation for both health and prosperity

OBEDIENCE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR BOTH HEALTH AND PROSPERITY

1. Health

(NIV84) Dt 32:45 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

(NIV84) Ex 15:25 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. 26 He said, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

2. Prosperity

(NIV84) Le 26:3 “ ‘If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, 4 I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. 5 Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. 6 “ ‘I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I

will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. 7 You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. 8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you. 9 “ I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. 10 You will still be eating last year’s harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. 11 I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. 13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.

II. Health and Prosperity Are Promised Because of Obedience

HEALTH AND PROSPERITY ARE PROMISED BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE

(NIV84) Pr 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,

2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

- A. Since Health and Prosperity is God's will for those who are obedient to him, we should pray for our obedience and ask for him to honor his word and give us health and prosperity.

(NIV84) 1 Jn 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1. This belongs to us!
2. Therefore, we surely must boldly ask!

- B. If we do not ask, we will not receive

(NIV84) Jn 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

(NIV84) Jas 4:2 You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, *because you do not ask God.*

3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- C. We are asking for the right reasons. If they are obedient to God they are entitled to have their strength equal their days and that they will live long and prosper!
- D. For our obedience God is willing to exchange health and prosperity to us. This is exactly what he offered in the beginning in the Garden of Eden.

1. If Adam and Eve had been obedient they would've had divine health and a wealth of abundance.
2. Jesus has reconciled us unto God. Now we can have what we ask. So we are encouraged to pray and ask for this to happen for those of us here at the Guiding Light Church!

(NIV84) Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- E. Now, the certainty of God's blessings are available to us. All we need to do is to pray for them.
- F. Therefore, now we pray

THEREFORE, NOW WE PRAY THREE TIMES A DAY FOR THREE THINGS (3+3)

1. That our congregation will be obedient to the Word of God
2. That our strength will equal our days
3. That we will live long and prosper
4. In Jesus name. Amen

III. Ps. As a final note:

For those who want to understand the true consequences of disobedience. See below that disobedience is the reason we lose the favor and blessings of God. This is the reason many of us suffer.

Oh, how I wish more people knew this. So many people are suffering ignorantly. Notice when we are not obedient our troubles gradually increase!

(NIV84) Le 26:14 “ ‘But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, 15 and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, 16 then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. 17 I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you.

18 “ ‘If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over. 19 I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. 20 Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit.

21 “ ‘If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve. 22 I will send wild animals against you, and they will rob you of your children, destroy your cattle and make you so few in number that your roads will be deserted.

23 “ ‘If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction but continue to be hostile toward me, 24 I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you for your sins seven times over. 25 And I will bring the sword upon you to avenge the breaking of the covenant. When you withdraw into your cities, I will send a plague among you, and you will be given into enemy hands. 26 When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will be able to bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out the bread by weight. You will eat, but you will not be satisfied.

27 “ ‘If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me, 28 then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over. 29 You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. 30 I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars and pile your dead bodies on the lifeless forms of your idols, and I will abhor you. 31 I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings. 32 I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled.

But if you want to return to receive the best of God

(NIV84) Ps 50:15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

(NIV84) 2 Ch 7:13 “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Now, pray and return to receive the best of God!