

## Petition

A formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority with respect to a particular cause. (noun)

To make or present a formal request to (an authority) with respect to a particular cause. (verb)

A **prayer of petition** is a request to God that asks him to fulfill a need. ... The **prayer of petition** is at its heart an Act of Faith in that the one **praying** must believe first, in the existence of God; and second, that God is both willing and able to grant the **petition**.

## Supplication

Although it is a noun, **supplication** comes from the Latin verb supplicare, which **means** "to plead humbly." While a **supplication** is often thought of as a religious prayer (it is used 60 times in the **Bible**), it can logically be applied to any situation in which you must entreat someone in power for help or a favor.

### Philippians 4:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

### 1 John 5:15 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

### 1 Samuel 1:27 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup>For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

### Daniel 9:3 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

### Daniel 9:23 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup>At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

## 2. THE PRAYER OF FAITH

The prayer of faith, also known as petition prayer, is the prayer that most people think of when they use the term *prayer*. Petition prayer is between you and God. It is you asking God for a particular outcome, whether it's a job, money, a lifetime mate, or whatever. The key verse for the prayer of faith is Mark 11:24, where Jesus says:

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

The rule to consider here is when you pray—not after you pray... not when you feel something... not when you see something. When you pray (the moment that you pray) you must believe that you receive what you asked for.

This is a difficult concept for some people. God is a present tense God. He doesn't operate in the past or in the future, but in the *now*. Whenever you pray, at that moment you are in the present. At that precise time, you must believe that you receive what you are praying for. At the moment you pray, believe that you receive what you have requested. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Your faith is *substance*—it is something real, something tangible. It is evidence of things you cannot see.

Think of a court of law. The jury was not at the scene of a crime, but the attorney introduces a photo of the crime scene that shows blood. That photo takes the place of the "thing" itself, the crime scene. The evidence is proof of something the juror cannot see but knows nonetheless. Your faith is proof of something that you have received... but can't yet see. The Amplified Bible says it

this way: "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]." The Worrell New Testament says, "Now faith is an assurance of things hoped for, a sure persuasion of things not seen." Confirmation. Title deed. Assurance. Sure persuasion. Substance. It doesn't get any clearer than that.

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If you have asked God for something once, you must have faith enough to believe that He heard you and that He has answered your prayer.

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Notice that Mark 11:24 does not say when you will actually see the result of your prayer. It does not tell you how long it will take for that prayer result to appear, and this is where many Christians get hung up. God lives in one eternal now. There is no past or present for Him. But we are temporal beings who live in the context of time. When you pray in faith, God immediately gives you what you prayed for—in the spirit realm. But in the natural world, due to a number of factors, it may take time for the answer to manifest itself. As an example, when you make a stock market transaction and tell your broker to sell one hundred dollars of stock, he sells it right then. But you do not possess the actual money until he sends it to you through the mail or transmits it electronically to your account. Even then, you will likely get a check, and that check does you no good until you endorse it and put it in your account. We do not have a problem understanding

these processes we have to go through in the natural world. We know they are required to bring something you *have* into a reality you can use.

Let me give you yet another example. You may get your new credit card in the mail with instructions from the bank that you must make a phone call to activate the card. That card is in your name, and it has a limit of many thousand dollars set aside for you—yet it will not work unless you go through the right steps to activate that card.

Part of the faith required to make a prayer transaction, to *activate* your faith request, is that you can only pray *one time* for something—because if you believe you have already received it, why would you ask for it again? Imagine I'm standing in front of you, and I say, "Please give me your Bible."

You reach down, pull out your Bible, and hand it to me.

Then I say, "Please give me your Bible."

What? You would rightly say, "Are you crazy? I just gave you my Bible." If you have asked God for something once, you must have faith enough to believe that He heard you and that He has answered your prayer. That's what Jesus meant when He said, "Believe that you receive them" (referring to things you prayed for).

God answers prayers, and He will answer your specific prayer in line with His Word (more on that later), but it is your faith that brings that answer out of the spiritual world and into the physical world. How many times in Scripture does Jesus say to someone, "According to your faith . . .," or "Daughter, your faith has made you whole"? He referred to peoples' faith constantly, and even though it was His power that healed them, He always credited their faith with being the catalyst. In fact, when Jesus went to His hometown, we are told: "Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matt. 13:58). Well, I have

a question for you: Did Jesus suddenly lose His power on that visit to Nazareth? Was there some satanic kryptonite that stole His powers? Did He suddenly cease being the Son of God? No! His power never changed. What changed? It was the people's level of faith mixed with His power.

There is a simple spiritual explanation for this. God will not do something against your will. God cannot violate free will. If you don't have faith to do something, He won't violate your will. In this case, He won't arbitrarily override your lack of faith. When blind men came to Jesus and asked that He restore their sight, He asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Matt. 9:28). They said, "Yes," and He said, "According to your faith let it be to you" (v. 29). The Bible actually indicates that they *received* their sight. Just as the air you breathe is already there—but you must inhale it, so their healing was already there, and they had to take it by faith.

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Don't think your request is an affront to God. If He has provided for it and promised it, you are fully within the rights He has given you to ask for it.

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So what should you pray for? The answer to that question is simple: you pray for those things that God promises to you in the Bible. "Does that mean cars? They didn't have cars in Jesus' time. How could I pray for that?"

Maybe some technologies, specifically, did not exist in the past, but that doesn't mean that the concept isn't in the Bible. Cars serve a purpose—to transport us from one place to another, to

# How to Pray the Prayer of Faith

Have you heard about the importance of praying in faith? Have you wondered what that means and how to do it but don't know where to begin? You may be a new Christian, or you may be a Christian who is desiring a deeper, Spirit-led life in the Lord. Regardless of where you are in your spiritual life, the prayer of faith is an important part of your journey. If you want to have your prayers answered, then you need to learn about the prayer of faith—what it is and how to do it.

Take a look at this passage where Jesus explains the prayer of faith and gives insight into how to do it:

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." —Mark 11:22-25

## Why Is the Prayer of Faith Important?

The prayer of faith is important because it is the key to having your prayers answered. You can't effect Spirit-led change in your life and in the lives of those around you without faith. On the other hand, with faith, Jesus says, "you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours." Faith finds out what the Word has to say, prays in accordance with that Word and believes regardless of outside circumstances. This kind of prayer depends on and trusts in the Word of God alone. It requires no other confirmation or affirmation.

## How to Pray the Prayer of Faith

If you want to practice the prayer of faith, you must do these four things:

### 1. Say It

Notice in the above passage, Jesus says that if you "say to this mountain." The prayer of faith requires that you speak and proclaim what you want.

## 2. **Believe It**

It's not enough to say what you want, if you really don't believe it's going to happen. This is true for healing, wholeness, prosperity or anything else. If you need help building your faith so that you can believe, begin studying God's Word and listening to ministers who will help build you up and teach you about the principles of faith.

## 3. **Receive It**

It doesn't matter whether or not your prayer is answered right away or if you must stand for it. By faith, see yourself receiving it. If you are standing in faith for your healing, then see (in your mind and heart) that you are whole and healed. If you are standing in faith for a godly spouse, then see (in your mind and heart) that you are married to a godly spouse. This is not some New Age exercise; this is trusting God's Word and His truth and becoming convinced of His Word and truth even before your answer comes. It is saying, "God's Word says it; therefore, I believe it. And that settles it."

## 4. **Act on It**

James 2:17 tells us that we must act on our faith: "So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to act on your faith regarding what you are praying for. Perhaps He'll lead you to give a special offering, which may be your money, your time, one of your talents or even an existing possession. The point is to be obedient in whatever the Lord directs you to do.

Right now, commit to begin praying the prayer of faith. Let this be the beginning of a fulfilling prayer life, one that will affect you, your family and quite possibly the world!