

## 06, part b) The “ABC’s” of Prayer

As children we learn to read by learning our “abc’s”. They are basic building blocks to communication. The Bible offers us some basic building blocks to communication with God in prayer. What I will refer to as the “ABC’s of prayer.

Lets build on what we have already learned about prayer by learning what the Bible says about the “ABC’s of Prayer” ....

Luke 11:1-11. One day as Jesus was praying, one of His disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. So Jesus taught the disciples (and us) to pray with these principles: 1) While we pray in Jesus’ name, since He is our advocate and High priest, we should pray to God the Holy Father who resides in heaven and we should be intent on maintaining His holiness in our heart and lives. 2) Pray and ask for His grace that you can live in a way that pleases Him and will hasten His return. 3) God says it is ok to ask for your needs. 4) and for forgiveness. But we will only receive forgiveness to the extent we forgive others. If you struggle in that area, ask God to change your heart. 5) Ask God to keep you from evil, to help you avoid and overcome temptation and the tempter. Recognize that power and glory belong to God and His kingdom alone is eternal!

He also taught them (and us) about the importance of persistence in prayer. Its not that God is forgetful, rather, He wants to see and hear us express to Him the things that are important to us.

### **A = Ask.**

Matthew 7:7. Our asking is to be active, not passive. It includes seeking and knocking. In other words doing our part in the grace, strength, and wisdom we have already received from God

### **B = Believe**

Mark 11:24. Our prayers must be made in faith. Faith that God will answer and provide in the time and manner that is ultimately best for us. Even if His answer may not be what we initially were hoping for. That’s why we should also ask that God’s will, not ours, be done when we pray.

### **C = Claim**

John 11:24. Martha knew the Bible promise of the resurrection, and she claimed it. She didn’t know that in this particular incidence, Jesus had something special in store.

When we are promised something from someone we trust, we generally (and should) express our gratitude and thanks. We express our thankfulness even before the promise is fulfilled because we trust the person who made the promise. Their word is “good as gold”.

Do we trust God’s word, His promises? Do we believe His word is “good as (even better than) gold”? If we did, we would not be hesitant to claim His promises more often. We would be saying thank you and praising Him because we know in our heart that He will eventually keep His promise that we are claiming even if it didn’t happen just yet when we prayed. And remember, they are His promises that He gives to us, though some are conditional. We should give thanks because we know His answer will be in our best interest, for our best good! It would be what we would ultimately want if we had His wisdom!

That is claiming God’s promises.

The Bible is filled with promises covering every need we have, every circumstance we face. The more we get acquainted with the Bible, the more promises we will discover. I like to use colored pencils as highlighters to mark my Bible as they don’t bleed through the pages. I have designated a different color for different things. I use green to highlight God’s promises because that is the color of the rainbow over His throne (Rev 4:2-3), and the rainbow was a symbol of His promise.

Joshua 10:12-13 Presumption is claiming what we want. We are presuming upon God our own distorted views of what He really promised. Faith is claiming what God wants, without distortions!

God had promised Joshua victory and gave Him specific instructions as to how to secure it. But the sun was soon to set and darkness would allow the enemy to escape preventing him and Israel from fully carrying out God’s plan. What was He to do? With incredible faith, not presumption, he offered up a simple, but incredible, prayer of faith. He asked God to hold the sun and moon still, so they would have time to finish the work He had given them. And God answered that prayer of faith by stopping the sun and moon in their orbits!

Dear friend, if God would “suspend time” for His people then, please consider what He is willing and desires to do for you today. He makes these promises because He longs to have us ask, believe, and claim them. He delights in interceding with His mercy, strength and power on our behalf.

Genesis 32:26. As Jacob (later renamed Israel) wrestled with God, he refused to let go until he received God’s blessings. Dear friend, do not let go of your faith or God’s promises. Do not let go of God, but ask for (in harmony with God’s will), believe you will receive (as God wills), and claim His promises. You will indeed be blessed!