

How many times has someone asked us to pray for them? What did we do? Well we probably asked them what the problem was, then listened to them tell us all about it. Now without any history or knowledge of the situation we either, randomly shot out a prayer but more than likely said, "I will" and then forgot all about it, not very effective. We just don't always know the circumstances in each and every situation, in fact, most of the time we don't even know what we should pray for.

Many times our prayer goes unanswered because prayer goes much deeper than just a few words. It requires patience, time, understanding, personal responsibility and a commitment to see Gods will being done regardless of our expected outcome.

So let's get to it, how can we be sure our prayers hit the mark every time? There is really only one way, "Know what Gods Word says" then either utilize that Word, or better yet refer that person to find that Word for themselves by reading their Bible. The problem many of us have is we don't know what Gods Word says ourselves, so how could we possibly point others in the right direction. As Christians it is our responsibility to know Gods Word so that we can pass it on.

For example, God's Word tells us in; 2 Timothy 3:16 Amplified Bible (AMP)

*Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action)*

If that is the case wouldn't it be wise for us to refer them to the Word of God and give them some accountability in the process, or is it wiser to shoot out some random prayer? The other morning my wife was feeling anxious about work and she asked me to pray for her. Now I would do anything for this woman but I referred her to Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

God has already given us the solution to all prayer, and it's our job to know where to find the answer before we get the question. It is also a place to refer others who need answers to prayer, where to find them when you are not around. Let's be honest it takes a lot longer to ask me to pray for you, than for you to fall to your knees and ask your Father for the right response to your requests.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Amplified Bible (AMP)

*Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths. (Good advice for any person)*

Prayer is much more than going to God with a need; it is the spirit that can change your life. It raises the quality of your thoughts and words and changes the direction of your life. There is nothing broken that God can't fix, even you.