

How to Pray with Power

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“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”
James 1:1-5 (ESV)

1. Pray your _____ not your _____

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” James 1:5 (ESV)

“Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”
Matthew 6:11-13 (ESV)

The people Jesus commends in his prayer stories are

_____, _____ and _____.

2. Pray His _____ not your _____

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting. . .” James 1:6 (ESV)

a. Doubt doesn’t _____ you out

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.”
Matthew 28:16-17 (ESV)

“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’”
Mark 9:24 (ESV)

b. Doubt doesn’t count you out but doubt can’t

_____ you out

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”
James 1:6 (ESV)

You must learn to _____ your doubts.

3. Pray _____ don’t _____

“You do not have because you do not ask” James 4:2b (ESV)

“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
Luke 11:9 (ESV)

4. Pray _____ and _____

“Purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

James 4:8b-10 (NIV)

5. Pray _____ not _____

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”
James 4:3 (ESV)

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”
Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)

6. Pray with _____

“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”

Romans 8:26-27 (NLT)

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.”
James 5:16b-18 (ESV)