

Live Stronger: The Weapon of Prayer
Pastor Dennis Rouse
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EPHESIANS 6:10-18 MSG

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

1 JOHN 5:14-15

And we can be confident that HE will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with HIS WILL. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for.

5 Conditions of Answered Prayer:

1. You must have an honest relationship with God.

JOHN 15:7 NKJV

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

3 Ways to Have an Honest Relationship with God:

1. Am I willing to confess and forsake sins in my life?

PSALM 66:18 NLT

If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

PROVERBS 28:13 NLT

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

1 JOHN 1:8-9 NKJV

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 3:20-22 NKJV

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

2. Am I currently ignoring any of God's principles?

3. Do I really want God's will for my life?

2. You must have a forgiving attitude toward other people.

PROMISE: MARK 11:24 NLT

"I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours."

CONDITION: MARK 11:25 NLT

"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."

MATTHEW 5:43-45 NKJV

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

3. You must have the right motive in your prayers.

JAMES 4:2-3 NLT

You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don’t get because your MOTIVES are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

4. You must believe God will answer.

JAMES 1:6-7 NIV

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

HEBREWS 11:6 NKJV

But without FAITH it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

5. You must pray in Jesus’ name.

JOHN 14:13-14 NKJV

“And whatever you ask in MY NAME, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-10 NKJV

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name

which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth ...