

Praying the Scriptures

In prayer we communicate with God. Scripture is filled with examples and instruction on prayer, yet many Christians feel like they struggle with their prayer life. Many Christians feel what John Piper once wrote, that “Prayer is War.”

The battle is not meant to be between us and God, though. Prayer will actually create a deep intimacy between us and God. Yet there is a lot that wants to keep that from happening. Perhaps we struggle with prayer because we aren’t ready for the battle that prayer naturally brings. The devil, our sinful nature with its many desires, the world distractions, and so much more will discourage us from praying or try to make our prayers as ineffective (and selfish) as possible.

If we are in a war, a metaphor used throughout God’s word, then we must train for the battles. The best training equips us with the right methods and tools and then is repeated over and over until the actions needed become second nature.

While it feels odd to blend images of intimacy and battle, with prayer that is exactly what we must do to fully understand its nature and participate in it as God has invited us. This booklet of Scriptures and instructions is meant to help you and your group grow in prayer, be equipped for its kingdom purpose, and draw near to God as he draws near to you.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he gave them the Lord’s Prayer. I am convinced it is our greatest prayer, not just its words but its outline. The following is structured to show how we can constantly use the Lord’s Prayer to guide our prayers and strengthen our prayer life.

Matthew 6:7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

The Bible’s call to prayer:

Ezra 8:21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Luke 18:1 And (Jesus) told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

How to pray Scripture

Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray"

Martin Luther's simple advice on this remains some of the most effective in teaching us how to use Scripture as our guide for prayer. Here is what Luther said:

- "I divide each command into four parts, thereby fashioning a garland of four strands. That is I think of each commandment as first, **instruction**..., second, I turn it into **thanksgiving**; third, a **confession**; and fourth, a **prayer**. This turns every text into "a school text, a song book, a penitential book, and prayer book."

So as you read through a passage of Scripture (from one verse to one chapter in size), pause to reflect on what it just taught you. Then thank God for something related to this passage or thought. Next confess how you haven't done (or done the opposite of) what Scripture is teaching you in that passage. Finally, pray for the needs, problems, concerns you have regarding your community and world that came to mind as you reflect on this passage.

You can find the full text of this short resource, called "A Simple Way to Pray," here:

<https://wmpl.org/filed/resources/public/Literature/ASimpleWaytoPray.pdf>

Timothy Keller's "Prayer"

In his book titled "Prayer," Timothy Keller has excellent advice on how to meditate on and pray through God's word (we recommend the whole book, especially chapter 10).

First note the distinction between the popular eastern "mantra" meditation that seeks to suppress the analytical side of the mind, and Christian meditation, "stimulates our analysis and reflection--and centers it on the glory and grace of God. Keller writes that "meditation means to use the mind intensely."

Questions to ask as you meditate on and pray through Scripture:

- Basic meaning questions are important. Otherwise you can pull something out of context and end up meditating on the opposite of what God wants you to hear. A good study bible can help you establish the answer to these first two questions:
 - What did the original author intend to convey to his readers/listeners?
 - What role does this text play in the whole bible; how does it contribute to the gospel message and move along the main narrative arc of the Bible, which climaxes in the salvation of Jesus Christ?
- Practical/Application Questions:
 - Am I living in light of this?
 - What difference does this make?
 - Am I taking this seriously?
 - If I believed and held to this, how would that change things?
 - When I forget this, how does that affect me and all my relationships?

Keller argues that meditation impacts our minds, heart, and soul. Through meditation we dive deeply into God's word and learn how to abide in Him. Results will vary each time. You may feel like you were just filled to the brim, like you just wrestled an angel, or like you just wasted your time. But taking the time to abide in God's word will ultimately produce fruit that will last.

Psalm 1:1 *Blessed is the man
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stands in the way of sinners,
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
 ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Psa. 1:3 *He is like a tree
 planted by streams of water
 that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
 In all that he does, he prospers.*

The Lord's Prayer

The following gives you each petition of the Lord's Prayer and passages from Scripture you can use to meditate on and pray through using one of the above methods (or your own). Since there are seven parts to the Lord's prayer, we suggest you focus on one part each day of the week.

Sunday: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Monday: Your kingdom come,

Tuesday: your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Wednesday: Give us this day our daily bread,

Thursday: and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Friday: and lead us not into temptation,

Saturday: but deliver us from evil.

Our Father who art in heaven

Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible...⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Luke 11:5 And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a **scorpion**? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Hallowed be thy name (on earth as it is in heaven)

Psalms 115:1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

2 Thessalonians 1:¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Thy kingdom come (on earth as it is in heaven)

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. ¹⁹ I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Philemon 4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

2Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Colossians 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

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Philemon 4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

1Timothy 2:8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

Colossians 4:¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

Colossians 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Romans 10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2Chronicles 6:18 "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. [NOTE: The house of God is now the body of Christ. The Christian church. Not a building.]

1Peter 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Give us this day our daily bread

Jeremiah 29:1 These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ² ...It said: ⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

1Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

3John 2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth.

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Psalms 119:117 Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually
Note: While prayers for safety seem to be the most common kind among American Christians, this is the only passage in Scripture that really speaks to that. So it's fine to pray for safety, but should hardly be our most common prayers.

***Forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.***

Acts 8:20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." ²⁴ And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Luke 18:9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2 Chronicles 6:36 “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to a land far or near, ³⁷ yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’ ³⁸ if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, ³⁹ then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you. ⁴⁰ Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.

***Lead us not into temptation,
Deliver us from evil.***

Ephesians 6:16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. ⁶ Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that ⁷ Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁸ I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ⁹ But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. ¹⁰ For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ¹¹ For we are glad when ¹² we are weak and you are strong. Your ¹³ restoration is what we pray for.

2Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Luke 21:34 “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Mark 14:33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

2Kings 6:15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. ¹⁹ And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria.

Daniel 3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought...and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Jeremiah 12:5 “If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?

Great Prayers of Scripture

There are many great prayers in Scripture. Daniel 9 is an incredible prayer of confession. John 17 is Jesus' "high priestly prayer" that is a treasure for the praying Christian. Ephesians 3:14-21 has an incredible prayer. As does Colossians 1:9-14. Hannah. Saul. David. Solomon. Elijah. Elisha. Paul. John. The Heavenly Host. All the psalms. The prophets. The following is far from an exhaustive list of great prayers in Scripture:

- Jeremiah 29
- Daniel 9
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- John 17
- 2 Chronicles 6 (1 Kings 8)
- Matthew 5
- 2 Kings 6:15-19
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And never forget the psalms are basically prayers. You will find every human emotion and situation described and prayed over in the psalms. They have been the heart of prayer for the God-lover for thousands of years.

They can teach you how to

- praise God,
- call out to God in tribulation,
- speak to God when you are angry with Him,
- Trust God when your faith is wavering,
- Learn to love God and his Word all the more,
- Intercede for others,
- And more.

A good habit to get into is to pray a psalm each day. With 150 psalms to pray, and 365 days in a year, you can easily pray through the psalms twice each year. Assuming 30 days per month, I recommend starting with Psalm 1 on January 1st and July 1st each year, then just doing one a day after that (so on March 15th you would read Psalm 75, on October 10th you would read Psalm 100). In June and December you could focus your prayers on Psalm 119 (it's long) or the book of Proverbs.

Remember, prayer is hard. It is a battle. It does not come easy each day. There are forces, seen and unseen, trying to prevent you from uniting with your heavenly Father, interceding for this world, and building God's kingdom through prayer. So it takes time. It takes energy. It takes discipline.

And it's all worth it.

Impediments to Prayer

Why might God not answer-and why don't we accept "no" as an answer

Psalms 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;

Matthew 5:23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

2Corinthians 12:7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 4:2 You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

1Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

A Final Warning

Litmus Test: How do you understand this verse:

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

If you read this and think if you give God some glory then he’ll give you what you really want (that doesn’t include Him), you have some serious heart change to undergo.

If you read this and realize God is the great satisfier of the desires of our heart, then you might be ready to mature in prayer. Prayer will draw you nearer and nearer to God, if you want that. If you are seeking God to move in through prayers, He will. If you are seeking for God to give you all the answers (and things) you want, that may not occur.

Not my will, but yours be done