
Essential Christianity: Praying Like You Mean It

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, March 3, 2019*

1 John 5:13–15

Assurance of Answered Prayer

Association *John 15:7*

Access *Ephesians 3:12*

Authority *John 16:24*

Agreement *1 John 5:14-15*

Assurance *John 14:13-14*

What I DON'T Want to Go on In My Life

Conditional Responses and Actions from God
Are Common in The Bible

Why? God Believes in Healthy Relationships
and Boundaries

1. Disobedience & Ignoring God's Word

"If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable."
Proverbs 28:9, NIV

2. Asking with Wrong Motives

“And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” *James 4:3, NLT*

3. Refusing to Deal with Sin

“If I had harbored sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

Psalm 66:18, NET

4. Doubting God

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 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. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.” *James 1:5–8, NIV*

5. Failure to Forgive

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”

Matthew 6:14, NLT

6. Setting Up Idols in Our Lives

“Son of man, these leaders have set up idols in their hearts. They have embraced things that will make them fall into sin. Why should I listen to their requests?” *Ezekiel 14:3, NLT*

7. Unresolved Marital Conflict

“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.” *1 Peter 3:7, ESV*

What I DO Want to Go on In My Life

1. Ask According to God's Will

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”

1 John 5:13–15, ESV

2. Believe God

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” *Mark 11:24, ESV*

3. A Right Relationship with Jesus

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” *John 15:7, ESV*

4. Fear and Humility

“... I, the Lord, have spoken! “I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.” *Isaiah 66:2, NLT*

5. Be Fervent

“While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.” *Hebrews 5:7, NLT*

6. Be Persistent

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” *Matthew 7:7–8, ESV*

Live as If Jesus Rules and Eternity Is Real