

How to Pray for Breakthroughs

Right off the bat, it should be understood that there is not a magical formula or mechanical way to experience God answering prayers in our lives. The Bible teaches that God answers prayers and responds to our needs in His timing, and in ways that are best for us, which may not always come in the time or manner we'd prefer. This short essay isn't about how to get what we want from God, or how to redirect God in a manner that suits ourselves. Far be it! Remember, we pray to align ourselves with God's will. In other words, we pray to change our mind, not God's.

Sometimes a breakthrough is what's needed. By breakthrough, I mean to asking God to help us in a big way; perhaps breaking away from bad habits or circumstances. This might mean a whole new direction in life, or something less drastic. There will be times when we need a breakthrough and when this happens, more should be done on our part. Here are some pointers to consider when a breakthrough may be needed.

- A. Let God speak to me before I speak to Him. In other words, read the Bible. Before I ask questions, it's likely He's already addressed my concern in His Word.
- B. Seek the face of the Lord. When the Bible says we should seek His face, it's different from seeking His hand. Seeking the hand of someone is to want the blessing or accommodation that the person can provide. This isn't always bad. But, seeking the face of the Lord means that it is intimate communion with God that I'm seeking. It's a desire to know Him more; desiring more of Him in my life. It's the relationship that matters! God says in Jeremiah 29:13, ***"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."*** The Psalmist writes in Psalm 27:8, ***"When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.'"***
- C. Express my desires to God with emotion. Did you know that you can come to God with your anger, frustration, fear, doubt, passion, etc.? Don't come with a mask on. Psalm 62:8, ***"Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."*** If your heart isn't into it, you probably don't care that much about it.
- D. Fast about it. One way that I demonstrate my seriousness is by fasting. Show God that you mean business. For more about this, see my essay titled Fasting.
- E. Thank God for His love and promises. Couple your requests with gratitude and thanksgiving!
- F. Humbly confess sin. God doesn't listen to prideful complaining.

Read Daniel chapter nine, and see how Daniel seeks the Lord with the examples that are provided here.