

Prayer: Is It Okay to Pray for Success?

Executive Summary:

- Compared to devastating circumstances in other people's lives, success seems to barely rank as a prayer need. Praying for success seems downright selfish
- Our appeal is to God's Word, which all but begs us to pray for *everything*
- God hears and grants every prayer in accordance with His will
- What the Bible has to say about praying for success in 3 specific workplace situations:

1) Praying for a specific IDEA

-Nehemiah's Prayer; he had a vision to rebuild Jerusalem; he prayed for the favor of the Persian King (Nehemiah 1:11); basically prayed "God, I have an idea that I believe is within Your will. Please give me success".

-God answered graciously and the king granted Nehemiah's request

Principle: The God who gives visions will also fulfill those visions through men who pray in humble dependence on their Lord's power and might. If God gives you an idea, you can pray for its success!

Big Idea: Prayer releases the power of God into the mundane affairs of our daily lives

-Jesus tells us, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" (John 15:7). If your idea is from God, failure to pray for success would be to dishonor Him.

2) Praying for a specific TASK

-Abraham's servant's task (find a wife for Isaac); "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham" (Genesis 24:12)

-At the watering hole, the servant met Rebekah

-Demonstrates that you can pray specifically for success in accomplishing your assignment. Jesus has invited us to pray about anything and everything (... *In Jesus*)

-Author thinks that a lot of us are not aggressive enough in pursuing and praying for success. Many men have a false guilt and uncertainty and a certain discomfort with success that is simply not found in the Bible. To not pray for success is to dishonor God.

3) Praying about a specific THREAT

-In the face of threat from the Philistines, King David's first response was to seek God's guidance. He prayed, "Shall I go and attack the philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" (2 Samuel 5:19)

-Our "threats" will be different, but when we're in trouble like this, what should we do?

The same thing David did ... pray.

-When you're having a David moment, facing a specific threat to your livelihood, I challenge you to pray - especially when you think you already know what to do.

-Pray for the Lord to show you the right action to take

-Sometimes god will give you specific directions, sometimes not. But when we pray for help in dealing with a specific threat, we honor God

-Skip, president of Shasta Industries, says, "There is never a day that goes by that we don't pray and commit this business to God."

Prayer Practicalities

-You need to pray, especially when you think you know what to do

-In work, prayer is not just important - it's mandatory. Prayer is our goal

1) Spend time with god every day;

2) Make a list of things you believe will contribute to your success. Then make an appointment - a specific time every day, when you pray through your list. Commit to this and try to be consistent

3) Get a resource on prayer