

Continual

1. 1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

(Colossians 4:2 “Devote yourself to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.”)

- First prayer key: it must be a continual conversation with God. “Never hang us the phone.”
- There are special times of prayer, either privately or with others, which begin with “Dear Lord” and end with “Amen” – but remember that “amen” means “so be it!”, not “end of prayer. Be aware of God presence constantly and keep the relationship going

Confessing

2. 1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Second prayer key: we must stay “clean” before Him by confessing (agreeing with God) our sins. Note: sins plural, meaning our daily miscues. Our SIN has been taken care of at the cross. Just as Peter did not need to have his whole body washed, but only his feet washed (John 13) so we do not need to continually confess our sin nature, but need to confess our individual sins to keep ourselves “clean”. When we do this, God is both FAITHFUL and JUST (righteous) to forgive, cleanse and make us fully usable for Him. Our sins do not keep us from heaven (they were take care of at the cross as well, in this regard) but our sins keep us from being usable vessels for God. So, CONFESS and KEEP AVAILABLE.

Confident

3. Hebrews 4:12 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hears sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”)

- Third prayer key: we can and must enter with CONFIDENCE – not cockiness or lack of reverence, but with assurance that we have been both INVITED and CALLED to come.
- Without this CONFIDENCE promised in this verse, we would come nervously and uncertainly if at all.
- God gives us both MERCY (not giving us what we deserve) and GRACE (what we don't deserve).
- The prayer throne is our #1 source for HELP – specifically, mercy and grace. So, come!

ASK (Ask, Seek, Knock)

4. Matthew 7: 7 Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.

Speaks of: Invitation, Perseverance & Answers

- (Matt. 21:22 “And everything you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.”)
- (John 14:14 “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”)
- Fourth prayer key: ASK (ask, seek, knock). Sure, God already knows what we need, but He wants us to ASK him – express it in prayer. James tells us we “have not because we ask not.” So, ask BIG things and SMALL things – God cares.
- The answer will not always be YES or NOW – but it will come, in God's perfect answer and timing.

Antidote for Anxiety

5. Phil. 4: 6,7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”

- Fifth prayer key: Prayer is the antidote to anxiety (worry). God gives us the “formula” for peace amidst worry.

- Prayer, 2) supplication (pouring out our heart) and 3) THANKSGIVING – thanking God that He is in control and that the peace will come – and even that there are lessons to be learned through the struggles
- The peace that will come is supernatural – beyond anything we could manufacture. “Don’t worry, be happy” is a nice thought, but not practical or supernatural
- Notice that both our hearts (emotional anxiety) and minds (intellectual anxiety) will be “guarded” or protected by God.

According to His will

6. 1 John 5:14,15 And this is the confidence which we have before 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 which we have asked from Him.

Sixth prayer key: Ask what we already know is God’s will. This concept has revolutionized my prayer life more than any other in recent years. Most of our prayers are typically those which we ask God for something not knowing for sure that it is His will, but hoping it might be. God wants us to pray these requests, but as a loving Heavenly Father will answer with His best – and we may or may not recognize His revised answers. However, this verse assured us that if we pray what we already know is God’s will – we know He hears us and answers. Examples: Lord help me to love my wife more. Lord, help me to be more aware of Your working in my life today. Lord, give me more of a heart for the lost this week. God knows our desire, but we MUST ASK. And when we do, HE HEARS, and HE ANSWERS WHAT WE HAVE ASKED. This verse promised it.

With these six prayer keys – may our prayer lives be transformed and lifted to a new level. Like the disciples, we might ask LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY. He has, in these 6 verses.