



PRAYERWATCH NEWSLETTER

Maranatha Chapel's Prayer Ministry, 10752 Coastwood Rd, San Diego CA 92127, email: prayerwatch@maranathachapel.org

Praying God's Will

A promise of success or a loop-hole for unbelief?

By Greg Dunn, Maranatha Chapel Prayer Coordinator

The main object of prayer is to communicate with our heavenly Father. Through prayer we tell Him how much we love Him, we worship Him and we thank Him for all he has done for us. In prayer we ask God how we can help Him in His work. We also ask Him for His help for others and for ourselves. To be effective in the "asking" part of our prayer life it is important for us to never forget that we work for God, not the other way around. The Bible reminds us in many places that we are God's servants, bought with a very great price. We are told that we will have the most joy when He gets the most glory. We are to focus our energies on ministering to Him and for Him. If we do our part God promises that He will do His part, by caring for all our needs. This means that most of, if not all of our asking prayers should be concerned with God's business not ours. The Bible often describes God's business with the phrase, "His will." We can see this expression used in 1 John 5:14-15, where the apostle John makes an amazing statement.

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"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

John is saying that if we ask the Father anything that conforms to His business plan and strategy, God will make it happen, no exceptions. That is quite a statement. Can we believe it? Obviously John believed it and it is interesting to note that John, "the most loved apostle" was also the apostle with the most longevity. The letter of 1 John was one of the last documents written in our Bible. Writing over sixty years after the death and resurrection of his Lord, John had a lot of time and opportunity to put God's business model into practice. John found that God's plan always works.

What about us? Has our asking prayer energy brought forth predictable success? "Sometimes" would probably be my first answer. "Occasionally" or "rarely" might be a more honest response. I have talked to many mature believers about this dilemma. It seems a common experience among Christians that as we get older in the Lord the disappointments and misunderstandings of our Christian walk seem to cover us with a cloud of skepticism concerning answered prayer. Why is that? I am sure there are many factors to consider but I think the main failing is that we have substituted our business model for God's. God becomes an occasional advisor instead of our Very Involved Boss. So OK, maybe we have become sloppy in our work ethics with God. "Slacker" is a term that comes to mind in my case. But now we see the problem, our Employer is very understanding and forgiving. He will forgive us completely if we ask Him to and we can start fresh. "God create in me a clean heart!"

Now back to the Plan, God's will. How do we know it, pray it, do it? First of all, the Boss has spent a lot of time and energy putting his foundational principles of business into written form. This combination of vision statement and employee handbook is called the "Bible." In it you will find everything you need to know to enable you to represent the Boss accurately in all areas of business practice. Now there are also many decisions that require the Boss's personal involvement and direction. Day to day adjustments and moment to moment fine tuning of our efforts are best handled by personal dialoguing with the Boss. Or in other words, if you want to know exactly what the Boss wants you to do, you go to the Boss and ask Him. Our Employee Handbook assures us that the Boss has an "open door policy" at all times. The Bible is very clear on God's desire to have two-way personal communications with us constantly. With this in mind let's go back to our scripture in 1 John. Please allow me to paraphrase.

"This is the confidence that we have in our Employer, that if we ask anything according to His Business Plan and strategy, He listens to us. And because we know that He hears us and it is His plan in the first place, we know that the Boss will make it happen and we will experience success."

That's God's Will!

I started out this article with the title "Praying God's Will, a promise of success or a loop-hole for unbelief?" The Boss has promised us success but as with all businesses there are always those who look for the "loop-hole" in the contract. Loop-holes allow

Prayer Opportunities

† For Prayer

Contact: Greg Dunn
(858) 613-7800 ext 110

† Emergency Prayer Chain

Church Office, Kristin
(858) 613-7800

† Sunday Morning Prayer

Contact: Bill
(760) 591-7525
9:15—9:55 am Prayer Chapel

† Prayer Chapel (After Services)

Contact: Greg Dunn
(858) 613-7800

† Moms in Touch

Call for a location near you
(858) 486-4065

† Women's Wednesday Prayer

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month
8:00 AM in the Prayer Chapel

† Weekly Prayer Walk

Contact: Christy
(858) 505-2566
Every Wednesday 5:00—5:45 pm
Meet at 5:00 pm at Gazebo

† Wed. Pre-Service Prayer

Contact: Ricky
(619) 595-0718
Wednesday 6:15—6:55 pm, S-110

† College and Career

Contact: Glenn Hirashiki
(858) 613-7800
Thursday 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

† Men @ Prayer

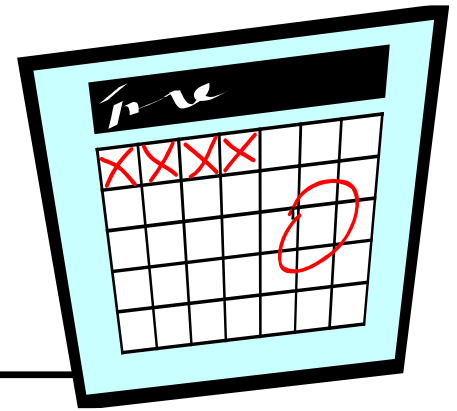
Contact: Elmer Getz
(858) 675-0500
Saturday 7:30—8:30 am, S-110.

† Prayer for Revival

Contact: Candace
(858) 565-0314
Every Saturday, call for location



Prayer Event Calendar



Sign-ups Continue 365 Days of Prayer

Sign-up to pray and fast for Maranatha's Pastors, Staff and Congregation. Prayer starts October 2004-September 2005
Sign-up for your day at the prayer table in the foyer.



National Day of Prayer

May 5th, 2005

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16



40 Days of Blessings—February 9 to March 20

Prayer Walk 2005 is a vision of God's blessing on our community through our prayers over every home. That vision was birthed in a prayer meeting more than a year ago and has been covered in prayer ever since. Now the vision of Prayer Walk 2005 is about to become a reality and Maranatha Chapel is one of the congregations that God has chosen to bring that vision to come to pass. The whole community, every neighborhood within the Poway Unified School District (66,000 homes in all) has been adopted for prayer and blessing by one of the local churches and our church has adopted the 4S Ranch Area.

We will be compiling a list of walkers from our church. These teams will each be given street assignments with the neighborhoods that our church adopted.

Anytime within the 40 days of Lent—from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9th to Palm Sunday, March 20th, you and your team mates can walk your assigned streets. As you go you will ask God to bless the families that reside there. You and your team might decide to walk once or several different times during those 40 days. When you walk and how often you walk is all up to your team.

You may already know who you would like to walk with, perhaps your spouse, your family or your friends. Just let us know or if you prefer, we can assign you to a walking team.

Sign up sheets are available at the PrayerWatch table in the foyer. Please stop by and sign up, or come by and get more information.

"Praying God's Will", continued from page 1

people to get out of doing what they know the contract intends for them to do. These "loop-holders" don't want to work or pay or deliver or trust in good faith the promises and conditions the contract maintains. It is sad to say but the phrase "according to your will" has become a loop-hole for many Christians. Rather than do the work it takes to discover and then to pray God's will, they lazily say something like; "Oh well, God's going to do what God's going to do." That statement may be true in a very general and fatalistic way but the real question is do you want to be part of God's will at work or do you want to just hang out at the water cooler?

The Bible promises us that we can determine God's will. We can pray God's will and if we do, we will see God powerfully demonstrating His will through us. Jesus was the perfect example of the Good Employee. Whatever the Boss said, He did. Whatever the Boss directed Jesus to do was met with perfect success. Of course we aren't Jesus; we are often so confused by our own plan that it is hard to understand His. This condition is easily remedied by a simple honest declaration that we find in the Employee Manual:

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, **your will be done** on earth as it is in heaven.'" Mat 6:9-10

This is not a loop-hope, this is a job assignment. Find God's will and pray it.
I leave you with a few verses for you to meditate on this subject.
God bless you as you set aside your plan for His.

Be a Diligent Successful Employee:

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke 11:9-10

Find and Follow God's Plan:

"Jesus answered them and said, 'My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.'" John 7: 16-18

We Can Know God's Will:

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself." Ephesians 1: 7-9

We can Pray and discover God's will:

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light." Colossians 1: 9-12

The Spirit can help us pray God's will:

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8: 26-27

Jesus expects us to do God's will:

"For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother." Mark 3:35

We can prove God's perfect will by our actions:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

We can ignore God's will:

"Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?" Romans 2:17-21

We can reject God's Plan:

"But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves..." Luke 7:30



Walking and Talking with our Almighty God

By Christy Carver

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9

For the last several years, a few of us at Maranatha have come together (with this common understanding that we serve an Almighty God) and we have sought Him in prayer, as we walk around the property, before each Wednesday evening service. The desire to do this was born out of the belief that we serve an All Powerful, All Sovereign, and All Loving God...who desires to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. We walk each Wednesday, inviting the Lord to do His work in and through Maranatha. The Holy Spirit is always faithful to guide our prayers for the pastors, staff, congregation, various ministries, and the families of Maranatha Chapel. Each week we look forward to our Almighty God doing the greatest miracle of all...bringing life to those who are dead. It's our joy to see the work of salvation going on each Wednesday...and to see the body of Christ being built up through the truth of the Word being taught. Our God is so faithful!!

With the joy of seeing God work and prove Himself faithful through prayer, I am very excited to see what Jesus will do through PrayerWalk 2005. As many in the body of Christ come together, to walk the streets of San Diego, and to look to our Almighty God to work on our behalf...I know we can look forward to our city being radically transformed...by the power...and to the glory of Jesus Christ!!

I pray that Jesus will continue to woo the people of Maranatha unto Himself...making us a people who are set apart for Him. May Maranatha Chapel be a praying church, as we continually grow in our understanding of the Almighty God to Whom we pray!

Gal. 2:20

Praise Reports!

Taken from the praise reports placed in our weekly offerings.

Prayers are answered!

"Praise God He is restoring our marriage."

"Ten years ago my brother was a "hopeless" drug addict—today he is serving the Lord!"

"Our niece has been healed of thyroid cancer!"

"Thanks so much for praying for our new home. God really did work a miracle!"

"I was going nuts about six months ago—now I am sane. I am enjoying an intimate relationship with the Lord and His joy is indeed my strength. Thanks for praying!"

"Praise God, a brother I prayed for has been healed of gall stones."

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer Watch is published on a quarterly basis. If you have a question, a comment, or an article on prayer you would like to submit, please contact Greg Dunn at Maranatha Chapel 858-613-7800 or email at: prayerwatch@maranathachapel.org