

Nine  
*Simple*  
Keys  
To  
Answered  
Prayer

# ***NINE SIMPLE KEYS TO ANSWERED PRAYER***

*By Michael A. Verdicchio*

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*From the author....*

There are many scriptures that address the topic of prayer. Scores of books have been written on the subject. This simple presentation looks at some great keys to receiving answers to prayer.

Over the years I have studied and taught on the subject of prayer. A number of years ago I spent an entire week teaching on prayer at a Family Camp. An important and vital part of Christian living is prayer.

I am aware of the different aspects of prayer, but in *Nine Simple Keys To Answered Prayer*, I focus on getting answers to your specific requests or petitions to God. I will show you nine simple and practical keys you can apply to receive more answers to your prayers.

This is not an in depth look at the topic of prayer. Rather, *Nine Simple Keys To Answered Prayer* is a straightforward and simple presentation.

These are not the “only” keys, but these nine are powerful and dynamic, and they can be the difference between getting answers and not getting answers.

It is my sincere desire that the information in this book will inspire you to pray more, and, that you will apply these nine keys and see more answers to your prayers than you ever have before.

Michael A. Verdicchio

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## Chapter 1 - Ask

**The first key to answered prayer is asking.**

Jesus Christ said, “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” That statement sums up what I am about to share with you. In fact, everything that I will share with you is tied into that marvelous statement that Christ made. It is just a magnificent summary of how to get answers to your prayers.

So, first you must ask. Now that may sound silly to some. But there are those who think that, “God knows what I need, and if He thinks I should have it then He will give it to me when the time is right.”

If that were true then why is there so much in the Bible about praying and asking God for the things that we need? Yes, He knows what we need, but He also has stated over and over again that we should ask.

In the epistle of James, it talks about not having because of not asking. So when it comes to getting answers to your prayers, the first key is to ask Him.

Let your request, your petition, your need, the things that you desire, make it known unto God by asking Him for it. Be specific and ask God for the specific thing or things that you want or need. Ask!

Also in the epistle of James it says if you lack wisdom, then ask God Who gives it liberally to all men – but ask with believing. Again, as Jesus Christ said, it is believing. And these keys offer great insight into believing Him so that you can get answers to your prayers.

## **Chapter 2 - Know What Is Available**

**The Second key to answered prayer is knowing what is available.**

In that statement that I mentioned in Chapter 1, Jesus Christ said, “All things whatsoever...” Does that mean that I can ask God to give me wings so I can fly? And if I believe it, I will grow wings? No.

We can ask God for anything that is available. And we find out what is available by looking at the promises that He made to us in the Bible. All those promises are available to us, therefore we can ask for what He has promised us.

To find out what is available, you simply go to the Bible and find the promise that meets your need. Then you go to God in prayer and ask Him to bring that promise into your life.

Now I know that sooner or later someone is going to come along and say, “Well there is no promise in the Bible that God will provide someone a car. So how in the world could you pray for that – it is not specifically stated as available.”

If you need a car then that is a need. God promised in the Bible that He would supply all your needs. Therefore, of course you can ask Him to help you get a car. How He does it is His business. You may find the deal of the century. Someone may buy you a car. Someone may just give you the money to get a car.

We also should keep in mind, in praying for others, God is not going to take away their freedom of will. God has given every person free

will to think whatever thoughts they want to think. We can certainly pray for people to change for the best, but God is not going to take away their free will thinking. That is not available.

So, once again, the second key is you need to know what is available.

## Chapter 3 - Remember Who You Are Asking

**The third key to answered prayer is remembering who you are asking.**

Once you realize that you need to ask, and that you need to know what is available, you need to get rid of any anxiety. In the epistle of Philippians, talking about prayer, it says to be “careful for nothing.” The word “careful” literally means, to be anxious. It means to be mentally distracted to the end of being upset, worried or stressed out.

So if Jesus Christ said that when we ask we should believe, then having anxiety and stress and worry is not believing God. And if we are not believing God then we will not be receiving from God.

In the epistle of James it says,

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

It is believing God that brings the promise into your life. When you believe you receive.

Take a look at that verse in Philippians that I mentioned earlier.



Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

So how can you get rid of the anxiety, the stress, the worry, and all the rest?

If you allowed a ten year old to work on your car to do some major engine work, would you be confident that he could fix it properly? Would you have any concerns? Of course you would. But what if someone who had been voted the best mechanic of the year was working on your car? How would you feel? How much stress would you have? Probably none.

When you pray to God you are letting your requests be made known unto God. You are asking help from God Almighty. No wonder the next verse in Philippians talks about the peace from God. You cannot have peace and anxiety at the same time.

So, when you pray and ask God for the things that you desire, and you know that your request lines up with what is promised in the Scriptures, remember Who you are asking. Remember that it is God Almighty that you are asking.

## **Chapter 4- Don't Faint**

### **The fourth key to answered prayer is not fainting.**

The next key in getting answers to your prayers is found in a parable in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 11. Jesus Christ said that, “men ought to always pray and not faint.” To faint means to lose heart, to give up; to stop praying before you get an answer.

The parable is about a widow woman who was trying to get a just judgment from a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man. Yet, because of her continual asking, and asking, and asking, lest he become weary of her, he granted her request. Jesus went on to teach that God would certainly and speedily answer His elect.

When it comes to getting your prayers answered you must never lose heart and give up on praying.

A great quote along these lines comes from a man named George Mueller. He was a great man of prayer. You can go online and read about him, or get one of his books. Over the years he documented answers to his prayers.

He wrote the following:

I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk, when I lie down and when I rise. And the answers are always coming. Tens of thousands of times have my prayers been answered. When once I am persuaded that a thing is right, I go on praying for it.

The great fault of the children of God is, they do not continue in prayer; they do not persevere. If they desire anything for God's glory, they should pray until they get it.

“Continue in prayer,” the Scriptures teach. Don't faint, don't give up. Keep praying until you get an answer.

## Chapter 5 - Don't Just Go Through the Motions

**The fifth key to answered prayer is not just going through the motions.**

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 6, Jesus Christ was once again teaching about prayer. It is interesting to note that there are not only a number of references in the Bible of Christ teaching about praying, but there are also a number of references of him praying as well.

You might think that Jesus Christ wouldn't need to pray. After all, he was the Son of God, who always did those things that pleased his Father. God said of him, "I am well pleased." Yet, in a number of records we find Jesus praying to his Father. And, if *he* wasn't exempt from prayer, and *he* needed to pray, how about you and me?

In Matthew, teaching about prayer, Jesus Christ cautioned them about using "vain repetitions." In other words, saying the same things over and over.

Prayer is speaking to God. He is looking for your *heart*. He wants to hear your thoughts, not a prewritten prayer that someone sends to everyone they know in an email.

When you speak to God, and give Him your requests, speak what is on your heart and mind. Tell Him what you are going through and what it is that you need.

## **Chapter 6 - Persistence Without Any Shame**

**The sixth key to answered prayer is persistence without any shame.**

The sixth key in getting answers to your prayers is similar to the fourth key, “Faint Not.” This key is also found in a parable in the Gospel of Luke, this time in Chapter 11. In that parable, a man goes to his neighbor at midnight asking for some bread for another friend who has just arrived from a long journey.

In our culture this is hard to imagine. If someone arrived to visit us around midnight, they probably wouldn’t be hungry. We could just pick them up at the airport, bring them home and put them to bed. And if they were hungry, there is usually enough food around for a snack.

In the times of the Bible, you couldn’t know for sure when someone traveling to see you would arrive. And with their mode of travel, it wasn’t the easiest thing to arrive at a decent hour. But, even beyond that, in their culture, a friend coming to your house was a big deal.

In fact, in Bible times, hospitality was very, very important. If someone was staying with you, you would protect them with your life. Once they came under your roof, it was understood that they were now under your protection. It was your responsibility to protect them and to take care of them. This was taken very seriously in those days.

In the parable, a man was asking another friend to get up at midnight and give him three loaves of bread for his friend who had just arrived.

The man inside the house refused. He and his family were all in bed, and he was not about to disturb his whole family.

Jesus goes on in the parable to say that the man finally did get up out of bed to give his friend the bread he requested. But the Bible says that he did not get up because the man asking was his friend. The reason he got up because of his friend's importunity.

Some people read right over that word, "importunity" and think it says, "Opportunity." The word, "importunity" means "shameless persistence." The reason the man got out of bed and gave his friend the three loaves was because of his friend's shameless persistence.

The man asking for the bread knew it was late. He knew what a terrible inconvenience it was to wake his friend. He knew it was going to disrupt his friend's whole household. And yet, he had no shame in what he was doing.

Why?

He recognized that his need was very important to him. It was so important to him that it canceled out any shame that he might have felt for waking his friend at midnight. Again, the Bible says that the man got up out of bed because he recognized his friend's importunity. He saw and recognized that his friend had no shame in asking.

Have you ever felt ashamed and unworthy to ask God for something? Don't! God is not ashamed of you; in fact, He is waiting for you to come to Him. The Scriptures say that His ears are open to our prayers. Never ever let guilt or shame keep you from coming to God and asking. In prayer, we not only "faint not," but we also persist without any shame.

## **Chapter 7 - Recognize God's Love**

**The seventh key to answered prayer is recognizing God's love for you.**

In the book of Romans, in Chapter 8, it says that there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God. Nothing.

God's love for you is completely unconditional. He doesn't love you any more today than He did yesterday. He doesn't love you any less today than he did yesterday.

What does recognizing God's love have to do with getting answers to your prayers? Well, think about it for a minute. You are asking help from God Whose love for you never changes. That means you do not have to do anything to be worthy to ask Him, because He already loves you.

The Bible says that you are a child of God. You are holy and acceptable in His sight. He has made you righteous. All this He did for you through the completed work of Christ. And what was His motivation for all that He has done? Love. God so loved the world.

So when you go to God in prayer, recognize that He loves you so dearly. And as you do that, your confidence in Him that He will provide what you need, will be there.

This is a really big key in believing Him, which is what is necessary to receive.

## **Chapter 8 - Recognize God's Ability**

**The eighth key to answered prayer is recognizing God's ability.**

When you ask someone for help or assistance, you usually don't ask someone who doesn't have the ability to help with what you need. That would be pointless and a waste of time.

When it comes to asking God, just how much ability does He have? And how much of that ability is He willing to provide for you? (He loves you, remember?)

Once again the Bible gives such great insight for your prayer life. In Ephesians Chapter 3 it says that God is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that you ask or think. How big can you ask? How big can you think? God's ability far, far surpasses that.

In the epistle of Corinthians it says that God is able to make all grace abound toward you so that you will always have all sufficiency in all things so that you can abound in everything.

Knowing that God has that kind of ability certainly increases your confidence in Him, doesn't it? And again, this is part of getting to the point of believing Him and receiving from Him.

Never doubt God's ability. He has unlimited resources. He has solutions that you have never even thought of. He is, God Almighty.



## Chapter 9 - Recognize God's Willingness

**The ninth key to answered prayer is recognizing God's willingness.**

As we look at this final key in getting answers to your prayers, remember that these are not the *only* keys, just nine really good ones.

When you stop and consider all that there is about prayer in the Bible, and all that God has promised that He would do for us, it should be *very* obvious that he is *very* willing to answer our prayers.

But have you ever wondered *why* God is so willing to answer your prayers? Yes, you could say that it is because He loves you, and that is true; He does love you. But there is something else too, and, it is found in the Gospel of John, in Chapter 16.

Shortly before Jesus was arrested, he spent some time with his disciples and shared many things with them. One of the things he talked to them about was prayer.

He told them that they didn't need to pray to him, but that they should pray to the Father in his name. He went on to tell them that the Father would answer their prayers so that their joy could be full.

God is so willing to answer your prayers so that your joy can be full. He wants you to be blessed and joyful. He wants your life full of joy. He wants to answer your prayers so that you can enjoy life.

God not only has great power and ability but He is very willing to answer your prayers. Isn't that awesome?

## Chapter 10 - Let's Review

If you will apply these *simple* keys in your prayer life, you will see a difference – a *big* difference. You will begin to see more and more prayers answered. Your confidence in God to supply all you need will increase. You will trust Him more and more to give you the desires of your life as He has promised you.

So, here again are nine *simple* keys to answered prayer:

1. Ask
2. Know What Is Available
3. Remember Who You Are Asking
4. Don't Faint
5. Don't Just Go Through the Motions
6. Persist Without Any Shame
7. Recognize God's Love
8. Recognize God's Ability
9. Recognize God's Willingness

Enjoy developing a greater and deeper prayer life with your Heavenly Father, Who loves you unconditionally and is waiting to hear from you.

## Epilogue

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

*Ask* - If you pray and ask God for something, and you are believing that He is going to supply, then you should have your eyes open and your hands open, expecting to receive.

*Seek* – Look for and expect an answer.

*Knock* – Move forward expecting the answer at the next turn.

Praying is vital. But we also need to move forward, looking for, and expecting to see His answer.

## About the Author

Michael Verdicchio is a husband, father, minister, author, and former broadcaster. He has been the voice on numerous productions over the years.

Michael was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1982, and resides with his wife in Arizona. In addition to teaching God's Word locally, and, as an invited speaker in other states, he has been involved with numerous Christian projects over the years.

His book, *Healing From God Is Available*, is presented in paperback as well as an Ebook and audio. Michael is also the author and producer of, "**Mike's Pep Talks**" on audio CD, at <http://www.MikesPepTalks.com> Other projects include, *Stories for Joshua and, Healing Words*.

In 2009 he launched the multimedia blog site, *Confidence And Joy*. The site is full of helpful inspiring content, as well as offering some of Michael's products.

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*God Bless You!*

**The following pages have information about  
books about George Muller.**

## Books about George Muller

Here are five recommended books about George Muller, including an autobiography and a biography. Simply click the links to get more information and to find out how to purchase these books at the best prices from Amazon.

### **Autobiography of George Muller (Paperback)**

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0883681595/?tag=conandjoy-20>

What can be accomplished in an ordinary man who trusts in an extraordinary God? George discovered the endless possibilities! These excerpts from his diary allow him to tell his own story.

Join him on his journey from a life of sin and rebellion to his glorious conversion. Share his struggles and triumphs as he establishes orphan homes to care for thousands of English children, depending on God's response to his prayer of faith to supply all things.

Muller's unwavering, childlike dependence upon his heavenly Father will inspire you to confidently trust the God of the impossible in every area of your life.

To get more information about the **Autobiography of George Muller (Paperback)** including how to purchase it at the best prices from Amazon, just click the link below:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0883681595/?tag=conandjoy-20>

(This next Muller book was the first book about George Muller that I read many years ago. It had a dynamic impact on my life. I know it will have a great impact on your life as well. It is called, Answers to Prayer)

Mike Verdicchio

### **Answers to Prayer by George Muller**

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B000JoY5FC/?tag=conandjoy-20>

Prayer was the vital component of George Mueller's nineteenth-century ministry to England's orphans. Through his narrative account, Mueller reveals how powerful and spiritually rewarding prayer can be in your life.

To get more information about **Answers to Prayer by George Muller**, including how to purchase it at the best prices from Amazon, just click the link below:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B000JoY5FC/?tag=conandjoy-20>

Another book by George Muller is titled,

### **George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles**

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0871231824/?tag=conandjoy-20>

The remarkable and challenging story of a man who dared to believe that God both could and would supply all of his needs whether personal or for the thousands of orphans in his care!

Though confirmed in the church at the age of 14, George Muller was raised without a real concept of God. By the time he was 16, he was in jail as a vagabond and thief.

In his early twenties he came in contact with a group of people who met regularly for prayer and Bible study. Through their witness he was brought to a turning point in his life and was born into the family of God. Daily Bible reading and prayer immediately became an important part of his Christian life and a cornerstone of his future orphanage ministry.

This is the personal story of one of the greatest prayer-warriors of the past century.

To get more information about **George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles**, including how to purchase it at the best prices from Amazon, just click the link below:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0871231824/?tag=conandjoy-20>

This book was written the year after his death by his son-in-law, Arthur T. Pierson.

### **George Muller of Bristol (1805-1898)**

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1598562525/?tag=conandjoy-20>

When Muller felt called by God to care for orphans, he had only a few cents in his pocket. Without ever asking anyone other than God, he received over \$7,200,000 dollars (in 1800's money) through prayer alone. Muller established Orphanages in Bristol, England, and founded the "Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and

Abroad," the object of which was to aid Christian day-schools, to assist missionaries, and to circulate the Scriptures.

His life was characterized by prayer, faith, and self-denial in the cause of Christ. During his lifetime, he established 117 schools which educated more than 120,000 young persons, including orphans. From age seventy until ninety, Mr. began to make great evangelistic tours. He traveled 200,000 miles, going around the world and preaching in many lands and in several different languages.

This classic biography of George tells of his dependence on prayer and his compassionate concern for orphans in Bristol, England. George was well-known for his constant faith in God and for providing an education to the children under his care, to the point where he was accused of raising the poor above their natural station in life. left a charitable legacy that continues to this day.

*George of Bristol* was written the year after 's death by his son-in-law, Arthur T. Pierson.

To get more information about **George Muller of Bristol (1805-1898)**, including how to purchase it at the best prices from Amazon, just click the link below:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1598562525/?tag=conandjoy-20>

And finally, here's one my favorites about Mr. Muller, titled, "Delighted in God," which I have read a couple of times. Mike Verdicchio

### **George Muller: Delighted In God**

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1845501209/?tag=conandjoy-20>



George Muller's life is a powerful answer to modern skepticism. His name has become a byword for faith throughout the world.

In the early 1830s he embarked upon an extraordinary adventure. Disturbed by the faithlessness of the Church in general, he longed to have something to point to as 'visible proof that our God and Father is the same faithful Creator as He ever was!

Praying in every penny of the costs, he supervised the building of three large orphanages housing thousands of children. Under no circumstances would any individual ever be asked for money or materials.

He was more successful than anyone could have believed possible and is as much an example to our generation, as he was to his.

To get more information about **George Muller: Delighted In God**, including how to purchase it at the best prices from Amazon, just click the link below:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1845501209/?tag=conandjoy-20>

There are other books by and about George Muller. Any of the above links will get you in the right area to look for those as well.