

Teach Us To Pray Part 2: Prayer That Gets God's Attention

(Luke 11:1 NIV) One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

(Acts 10:1-4 NASB) Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God."

What Doesn't Get God's Attention

- ✓ Proximity
- ✓ Physical attributes
- ✓ Positions or titles
- ✓ Popularity

Prayer That Gets God's Attention

(Acts 10:2 NASB) A devout man.

1. Focuses upward.

(Matthew 6:9-10 NIV) "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.

(Acts 10:2 NASB) And one that feared God with all his household.

2. Searches inward.

(Psalm 139:23-24 NIV) Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(Acts 10:2 NASB) And gave many alms to the Jewish people.

3. Looks outward.

(James 5:16 NIV) Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

(Acts 10:2 NASB) And prayed to God continually.

4. Pushes forward.

(Romans 4:17 ESV) As it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

(Proverbs 18:20-21 NASB) With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; he will be satisfied with the product of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Prayer that gets God's attention changes everything.