

“The Western World is not characterized by prayer. By and large, to our unspeakable shame, even genuine Christians in the West are not characterized by prayer. Our environment loves hustle and bustle, smooth organization and powerful institution, human self-confidence and human achievement, new opinions and novel schemes. The church of Jesus Christ has conformed so thoroughly to this environment that it is often difficult to see how it differs in these matters from contemporary paganism. There are, of course, exceptions but I am referring to what is characteristic. Our low spiritual ebb is directly traced to the flickering feebleness of our prayers.”

D. A. Carson

²² And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

Matthew 21:2

²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Matthew 11:24

¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

John 14:13-14

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:7

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

John 15:16

²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:23-24

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.

Lamentations 3:22

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

Zephaniah 1:12

¹² You do not have, because you do not ask.

James 4:12

I have come to see that in the past years I have wasted much time over praying that was not effective prayer at all. Praying without faith is like trying to cut with a blunt knife – much labor expended to little purpose. I have been impressed lately with the thought that people fail in praying the prayer of faith because they do not believe that God *is* answering their prayer but only that He *will* answer their petitions. They arise from their knees feeling that God *will* answer some time or another but not that He *is answering*. This is not the faith that makes prayer effective. True faith glories in the present tense and does not bother about the future

James Fraser