

Characteristics of Effectual Prayers:

- 1) Is done by a righteous person
- 2) In full assurance and faith; with belief
- 3) In God's will
- 4) Fervent; with emotion and passion; "wrestling"
- 5) Persistent
- 6) Perhaps is out loud
- 7) Is specific

Related passages:

Is done by a righteous person

I John 3:21-22

Full assurance and faith:

James 1:6-8; 5:15, 16-18

Mark 11:22-24

John 14:13-14; 15:7; 15:16; 16:23-24

Matt 7:7-11

In God's will:

I John 5:14-15

Fervent:

James 5:16 [KJV]

Colossians 4:12

Persistent

Luke 18:1-8

Perhaps is out loud:

"Cried out"

Exodus 2:23; 8:12; 14:10; 15:25; 17:4

Numbers 12:13; 16:22

Deuter 26:7

Etc.

Is specific:

Mark 10:36; 51

Luke 18:41

Note:

It should be stated that not every single prayer that we lift up will be granted, because it is very possible to pray for something that is not in God's will. Prayer is not an exercise in getting God to conform to our will, but rather we learn to conform to His will, much as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Characteristics of Ineffectual prayers:

- 1) Is done by one who ignores God's Law; or is in sin
- 2) Without faith or any belief that it will be done
- 3) For our own pleasures
- 4) Flat; without any emotion; anemic
- 5) Quick, one time
- 6) Silent and with a wandering mind
- 7) Non-specific; only generalizations

Related passages:

One who ignores God's Law; is in sin:

Proverbs 28:9

Psalms 66:18

John 9:31

I Peter 3:7

For our own pleasures; not for God's will:

James 4:3

Note:

It should be stated that our Sovereign God hears even the faintest silent cry. He hears the groanings of a non-specific prayer for help. He grants many requests for items that are for our pleasure and happiness [Matt 7:11]. He also hears the quick, single prayer which does not need to be repeated over and over in a babbling fashion [Matt 6:7]. He even hears and answers prayers for those who have little faith. And greatest of all, our awesome God even will hear the prayer of the unrighteous and in His grace He will grant it.

The point is that in general, these are the characteristics of effectual and ineffectual prayer. The one who repeatedly offers flat, quick, silent, general, and faithless prayers will notice that their prayers seem to be ineffectual. On the other hand, the one who delights in God's Law and His Grace, who repeatedly offers up fervent, believing, and specific prayers as he cries out to God in His will often notes that his prayer life is much more effective!