

How to Pray Effectively over a List of Prayer Requests

Many of us regularly pray over a list of prayer requests from classes or groups we're part of. It's good to pray for others, even those we don't know, but sometimes it can be frustrating because we're not sure what to ask. We're told that if we pray according to God's will, we can have whatever we ask (1 John 5:14-15), but often prayer requests are for things for which we can't be certain of His will.

One way to be sure we're praying God will is to pray God's Word. In practical terms, we can pray one prayer with verses from Scripture over the entire list—scriptures that are clearly God's will for anyone, such as:

that they will seek His kingdom and righteousness as a priority of life (Matthew 6:33),

that they will know and follow Him as their Shepherd (Psalm 23:1),

that they will tithe and give generously (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38).

These verses are not only His will, but in context, they are linked to promises of provision for daily needs to be met. After praying such verses, knowing that in His timing and His way He will answer, we can comfortably move quickly through our list of names and requests without feeling the need to give God a lot of details. We can know we've already asked for things that are on His heart and He's promised to do.