

# An A+ Student of Prayer

The effectiveness of prayer is often a matter of faith—you have to be convinced that God has the power to answer prayer.

... so, part the waters of the Red Sea, God, unless it's too much trouble, in which case, please make some big waves ... but if that's too much to ask, then a couple of good ripples should do the trick. ...

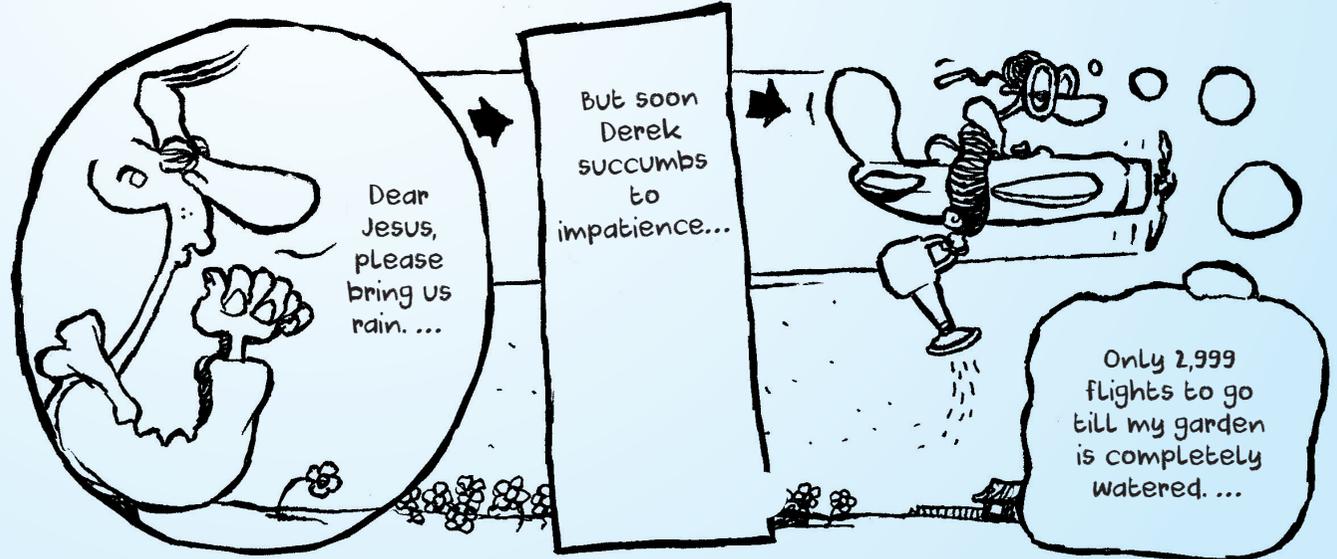
When you stand on God's promises as you pray, you know that if your request is in accordance with God's will, it will be done.

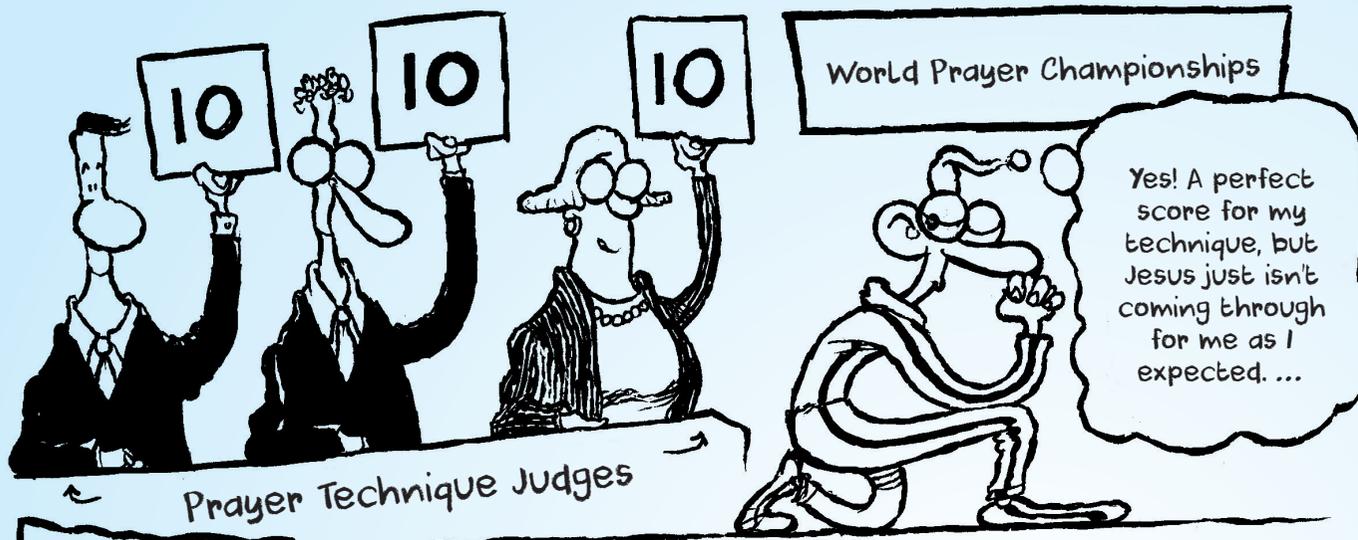
One of the reasons that prayer doesn't seem to produce many results for some people is that while they pray, they don't truly leave the situation in God's hands, but feel that they must do something about it themselves.

If Moses hadn't believed!



This is not to say that you are to sit back and do nothing; rather you are not meant to run around in your own strength attempting to bring about the answer yourself. You're to trust God and do your part, but then above all, to trust Him to bring about the best results.

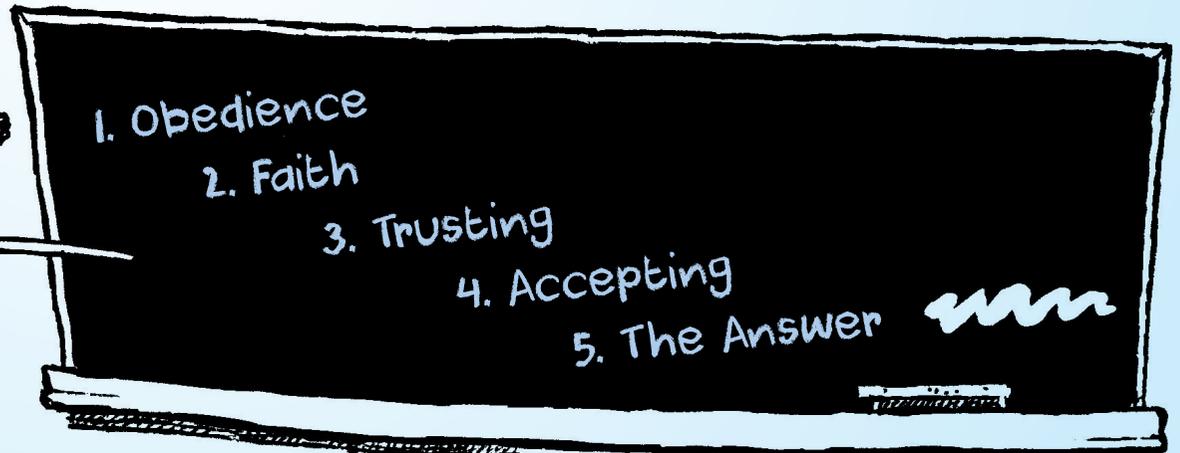




Prayer is not merely a matter of bringing your requests before God, it's also learning to trust Him for the answer. That is true even when it comes in a package that is different from what you had expected, or perhaps even wanted. Sometimes God may show you to take additional steps in order for you to see the desired results, and your obedience to His instruction will determine the final outcome of your prayers.



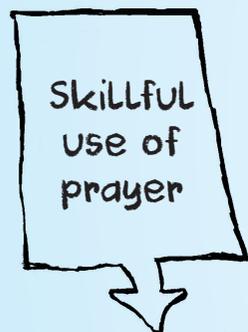
When you are a well-schooled user of prayer, you know that prayer is more than rattling off a list of requests to God. It includes following through on what He has shown you to do. It is having faith that what God has promised, He will perform. It is trusting Him for the answer, and it is accepting how He chooses to bring about the answer because He knows what is best for you.



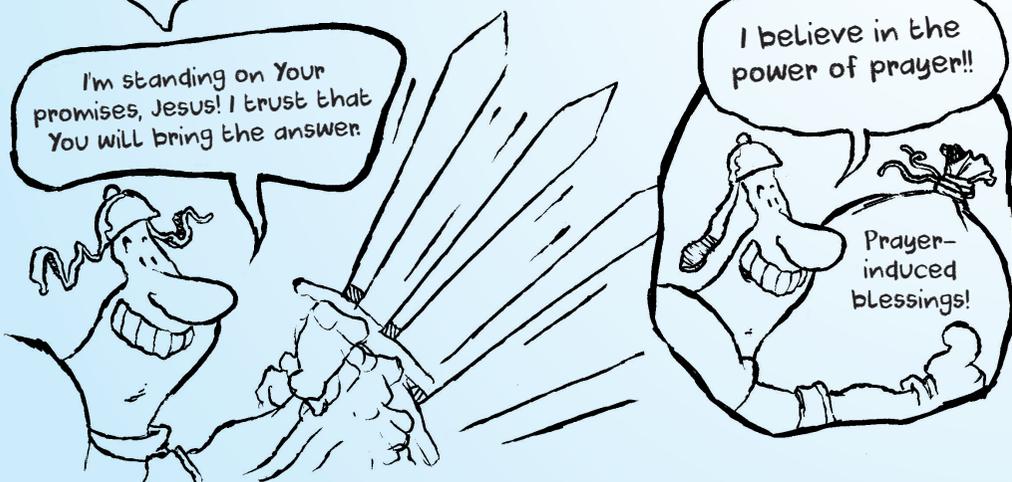
A well-schooled user of prayer

You can become an A+ student in the art of prayer by doing your part to master the gift of prayer. Use these steps to strengthen the power of your prayers:

- Read and follow the instructions in God's Word. This will strengthen your faith.



- When you come before God in prayer, come with confidence and faith. Believe that He can and will answer your request in the way that He knows is best.
- Be diligent in your prayer.
- Talk to God and praise Him for His goodness and care.



- Accept the answer God gives, even when it is different from what you thought it would be.

There is a difference in those who use prayer merely because they know it is good to use and those who use prayer because they believe in its power. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."<sup>1</sup>

**Footnote:**  
<sup>1</sup> James 5:16 NLT