

## ***How to Petition God Effectively***

Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer **and petition**, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

In Isaiah 43:26, God says, "Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; **state the case** for your innocence. Your first father sinned; those I sent to teach you rebelled against me."

***IMPORTANT! Your "case for your innocence" is never yourself but always God Himself -- God's Word, Jesus, Jesus' death, the Blood of Jesus, God's love, God's goodness, God's holiness or righteousness, God's grace and mercy, God's faithfulness, God's integrity, etc, etc. People in the Bible petitioned God this way.***

### **Scriptural Examples: Ezekiel 36:22**

Ezekiel 36:22 says, "The Sovereign LORD says: **It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name...**" The basis is God's holy name, simply because He wants to.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 says, "The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. **But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore** to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. The basis is, God loves you and keeps His word.

Exodus 32:11-13 says: But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. **Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself**, and said..." The basis for this petition is that God remembers what He promised, and that if He doesn't, people will slander God and speak evil of Him, that He was not a God Who keeps His word.

Exodus 33:13 says, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. **Remember that this nation is your people.**" The basis of this petition is God's love for His people and His faithfulness to be their God.

Jeremiah 15:15-16 says, "LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. **You are long-suffering** -- do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach **for your sake**. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for **I bear your name**, LORD God Almighty." The basis of this petition is God's "long-suffering," His patience, and His faithfulness to those who are faithful.

Job 7:7 says, "Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again." The basis of this petition is that God remembers how He made man. See Job 10:9, Psalm 78:39, Psalm 89:47, too.

Psalms 119:49-50 says, "**Remember your word to your servant**, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life." The basis of this petition is that God remembers what He promised -- God's integrity.

Psalms 119:107 says, "I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, **according to your word**." God's word.

Revelation 12:11 says, "They triumphed over him [the devil] **by the blood** of the Lamb and **by the word** of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." The basis of this petition would be "the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony," that is, what God did -- God's goodness, God's grace, etc.

### **IMPORTANT!**

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27) Jesus said, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit ... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26) 1 John 2:27 says, "His anointing teaches you about all things." Listen for God's voice as you go. Let Him speak to you through it and teach you. Let Him show you what must happen.

Romans 8:14 says, "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God." Be led of God's Holy Spirit, otherwise, you may not be acting as a child of God.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

There are times when prayers seem to go unanswered. This outline is very effective working when nothing else works. The way it works is by having God reveal to you what the enemy is using against you before God to keep God from answering you. You flatly ask God to reveal it. When He does, you take ownership of it. You repent and ask God to clear it from you. Then you petition as usual.

And... You can use this to intercede for others too. You simply petition God for their need as if it were your own. You would simply ask God what issues are keeping them from receiving and repent on their behalf. "Father, I stand in the gap for ... and I repent on their behalf." And yes, you can do this! Jesus did it for us.

### **Make Your Case**

#### **Step 1**

Start with Psalm 100:4: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Pray: Lord, I enter Your gates with thanksgiving and Your courts with praise. Thank You for... [keep thanking Him for every little thing] I praise You for... [keep praising Him for anything you can]

#### **Step 2**

Pray Hebrews 4:16: Lord, I approach Your throne of grace with confidence, so that I may receive mercy and find grace to help me/[name of person] in my/their time of need. I enter right into Your presence by the Blood of Your Son Jesus.

**Step 3**

Pray Philippians 4:6: Lord, You told me to not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present my requests to You. [Make your request here.]

**Step 4**

Remove the roadblocks. Often, the reason you cannot do what you need to do is that the devil is resisting you. "For our struggle [whatever your struggle is] is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12) "For the accuser of our brothers and sisters...accuses them [YOU] before our God day and night [relentlessly]..." (Revelation 12:10)

At this point, you should simply ask the Lord, "What is keeping me from reaching my goal? What are the issues working against me, Lord? As David said, in Psalm 139, 'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way. What must be taken out of the way in order for me to receive this request?'"

Ask the Lord to tell you explicitly what the enemy is accusing you of and wait for God to tell you. He will. He may flatly tell you, or He may give you an image or vision, or He may remind you of something that happened. Spend some time listening for Him to tell you. Take notes to help you remember.

**Step 5**

Follow the example of scripture and take responsibility for whatever God shows you, even if you feel you are not responsible for it. God says, "But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors -- their unfaithfulness and their hostility toward Me, which made Me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies -- then, when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin [in our case, acknowledge that Jesus paid for our sins], I will remember My covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land." (Leviticus 26:40-42) Also see Jeremiah 14:20, Psalm 106:6, and others like them. Lamentations 5:7 says, "Our ancestors sinned and are no more, and we bear their punishment."

As you can see from scripture, the issue may be generational and thus something someone in your family did that is affecting you now, and so you must "confess your sins AND the sins of your ancestors" and ask God to forgive it and cleanse you of it by the blood of the Lamb.

Pray: Lord, I take responsibility for these things. My ancestors and I have sinned against You. I acknowledge our guilt and I repent. I renounce these things, even for why we did it and what we gained from it. I ask You to take this out my life now. I hate it and do not want it any more. Replace it with [state the opposite e.g. replace pride with humility, lust with love, greed with generosity, depression with joy, etc].

## **Step 6**

Ask God for what you want, and ask Him to go above and beyond.

Ephesians 3:20 says, "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..."

In 1 Kings 3:13, He says, "I will give you what you have not asked for..."

In Isaiah 61:7, He says, "Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion..."

Zechariah 9:12, He says, "Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you."

Job 42:10 says, "After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before." And James 5:11 says, "As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy."

## **Step 7**

On the basis of Deuteronomy 30:3-13, 32:35, Proverbs 6:30, Joel 2:25-27, Jeremiah 30:17, Ezekiel 36:22-37, Psalm 94, Luke 18:1 and Romans 12:19, petition God to restore everything and more.

Lord, on the basis of these scriptures, Your Word, I ask You to give me back everything that was lost or stolen as a result of the issues that You brought to my attention. I ask You to repay me for the years the locusts have eaten. Restore the lost time, health, relationships, and finances and anything else. Restore all Lord! Restore everything that was lost or stolen. Have compassion on me. Lord, Your promises are always yes, and amen. (2 Corinthians 1:20) I wait for Your verdict.

## **Step 8**

Wait for Him to agree or disagree, to say yes or no. You may hear, "Case closed!", "It is done!" or any other confirming thing. He usually does not say no unless there are other issues to address. If He says no, ask Him why and wait for an answer. If needed, go back to step 4 and ask what else is keeping you from receiving.

## **Step 9**

Thank God with your whole heart. Praise and worship Him. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Lord, thank You for hearing my petition today and granting my request, for You are good. You are a good Father. You love Your children. Thank You for [name what you received] and thank You for doing even more. Thank You for giving back to me all that was lost and more. Thank You Lord! I love You! I bless You! I praise You! In Jesus' name. Amen!!!