

# Effective Prayer

by John Abraham Godson

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## 5. It is prayer according to God's will

*“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”*

James 4:3

The prayer that God answers, is prayer according to God's will. God has a plan, a purpose for each one of His children. What is God's will? God's will is good and it is especially meant and suited for you. Many people are unable to persevere in prayer or to pray with faith because they do not know whether it is God's will or not.

We should ask God for guidance. When we ask for guidance, He gives it. One of the most important guidance is the inner witness.

**“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure”** (Phil. 2:13)

**“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** (Rom 12:1-2)

God works in us to give us certain promptings and desires. When we surrender our selves totally and unconditionally to Him, the desires of heart will glorify Him, and it is His will to grant us the desires of our heart.

Let us examine a few more verses:

### **Ps 37:4-5**

**“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”**

When you delight yourself in the Lord, when you serve Him with total, absolute surrender, God gives you the desires of YOUR heart. That is His will.

### **Proverbs 3:6**

**“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths”**

When we acknowledge God in everything we do, when we seek Him in every situation, He has promised to guide our paths.

### **Matt 7:7-11**

**“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give *good things* to them that ask him?”**

God’s will is that everyone who asks receives. His will is that everyone who seeks finds. God’s will is that everyone who knocks, it shall be opened unto him. Jesus closes the analogy with the question: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give *good things* to them that ask him?” It is God’s will to give **GOOD THINGS** to those who ask Him. You have not for you ask not.

### **John 15:7**

**“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”**

If we abide in Jesus, and His words abide in us, we can ask whatever we wish and it shall be done unto us. Note that you can ask whatsoever YOU WILL. That is the will of God.

I have found the following guidelines helpful in determining God’s will in any situation.

1. **Commitment to do God’s will:** Am I committed to doing God’s will in this situation? Romans 12:1-2
2. **Desires of my heart:** Are the desires of my heart to pursue this particular direction? Psalm 37:4
3. **Resources:** Is God providing the power and resources to accomplish this desire? Phil 2:13
4. **Inner Peace:** Does God give me peace to continue working on this project and to make the necessary decisions to achieve it? Isaiah 26:3

If the answers to all the questions are “yes”, you can be sure it is God’s will and direction for you at this time. If the answer to any of these questions is “no”, It is then imperative to wait and seek more of God’s guidance and confirmation. It is better to pray until you can say yes to all these questions. It is important that you be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Other questions you can ask yourself are:

- What does the Bible say about this matter?
- What does God tell me when I pray?
- What are my interests in this situation? (motivation)
- What counsel do I get from people about this situation?
- What do the conditions and circumstances indicate in this situation?

God is a God of impossibilities. Even when something seems impossible from human standpoint, never be discouraged. With God all things are possible.

I remember the year 2000. I had been a missionary in Poland for 7 years and in all those seven years, I had never been back to visit Nigeria. I did not have the financial resources to do that. I

had married and we had 2 children but they had never met my parents and family in Nigeria. Before I left Nigeria to come to Poland as a missionary, my great grand mother who was then 103 years old said she will not die until she saw me again. She was a believer.

So here I was, seven years had passed and nothing seemed to indicate that we will ever be able to visit Nigeria. We needed about \$5000 in order to travel there as a family. We didn't have a cent. In fact we had debit in our account. We started praying. Oh our children prayed. Everyday it was the same prayer. April came and nothing seemed to have changed. We planned to go there in July. We traveled to Warsaw, I got them Nigerian visas (they are Polish).

I remember one particular day. I was crying to God in prayer. In fact I was demanding that He make it possible that I could go. My reasons were the following.

1. My great grand mother 110 years old and was still waiting for me to visit. She was now blind and couldn't walk.
2. It is Biblical that as a couple we receive parental blessings from our parents by the laying of hands. We had been married for almost 6 years and they don't even know my wife or their grandchildren.
3. I would have been able to save enough money to go to Nigeria if I wanted but all the money that we earn goes into ministry- tracts, books, conferences, helping the needy. So my argument was "Lord I gave you, now I need you to give to me"
4. The last reason was simply "Lord I want to visit home"

After that prayer, God started intervening. People started sending us money. Before long we had just enough for the flight tickets for 4 people. In the end we were able to travel and God provided all our needs.

Eight months later, my great grand mother died at the age of 111 years.

Was it God's will for us to go to Nigeria? That I cannot tell you for sure but one thing I am sure was that I had a desire to go to Nigeria. That desire didn't wane as we prayed. It grew rather. God responded to our faith and to our prayers.

Many of us have a confused image of God. We think that God expects us to act like Zombies without any will and without any personal initiative. God has created us to think and to will. What He expects of us is to:

1. Abide in Him
2. Let His word abide in us.
3. Be not conformed to this world.
4. Be transformed by the renewing of your heart.
5. Delight yourself in the Lord

When we do these things, we can be sure that our desires are His will and we can confidently pray for them to be fulfilled. If it is not His will, He will intervene to let you know but that is rare. An example was Paul who traveled from city to city preaching the gospel. But then something strange happened:

**“After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.” Acts 16:7-10**

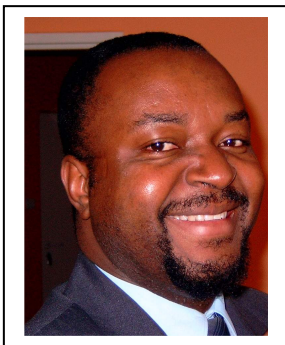
In this example God stopped Paul from ministering in Mysia but opened up a strategic door for him to have his first European outreach in Macedonia. But normally, Paul chose to minister where he felt but was flexible enough to the interaction of the Holy Spirit.

I say this because I have noticed that many people are paralyzed because they are not sure what the will of the Lord is. I know of brethren who have been Christians for 40 years and they are still waiting for God to show them His will for their lives so they could serve Him. That is deception. Whatever your hands finds to do today, do it well and faithfully as unto the Lord.

Pray big prayers. Dream big dreams. Do exploits for Him. That is His will for your life. God’s will for your life is not for you to be consumed with anxiety of what to eat, what to wear and how to pay your bills. God wants you to live above these. God’s will is for you to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these other things shall be added unto you.

**Previous chapters of this book can be downloaded from our website at: [www.pielgrzym.org/articles.html](http://www.pielgrzym.org/articles.html)**

#### **About the author**



**John Abraham Godson** (formerly Godson Onyekwere) is a Nigerian serving as a missionary in Poland, Eastern Europe for the past 13 years. He is the international director of **Pilgrim Mission International**. The main vision of his ministry is “Revival” which comes through fervent and persevering intercessory prayer and bold uncompromising preaching of the Word of God. He also serves as the chair for the **Lausanne Intercession Working Group** in Eastern Europe/Eurasia, and International facilitator for the **Network of Nigerian Missionaries Overseas**. Together with his wife Aneta and 4 children, they make their home in Lodz, Central Poland.