

Definite Requests

[Making a Marked Difference]

Philippians 4:6 (AMP)

“6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God”

- * The remedy for anxiety and worry: prayer.
- * What goes with fasting is prayer.

The four words used for prayer show exactly how prayer is the answer to anxiety and worry.

1. The word "*prayer*" (proseuchē PWS: 3000)

- * Refers to the set times of prayer that we share in periods of devotion and worship
- * We are to have set times for prayer, times that we especially set aside for devotion and worship.
- * Somebody shout ‘set times for devotion and worship’

2. The word "*supplication*" [*“Petition”*] (deēsis PWS: 3856)

- * Refers to the prayers that focus upon special needs
- * We feel a deep, intense need, therefore, we go before God and supplicate, that is, pour out our soul to God.
- * A Need—a great need—confronts us, and the only possible help and deliverance is God.
- * Therefore, we come and lay our need before Him as a child: Calling for His help, comfort, deliverance, and peace.

3. The word "*thanksgiving*" (eucharistia)

- * Means that we thank and praise God for all that He is and for all that He has done for us.

2.

4. **The word "requests"** (aitēmata PWS: 3261)

- * Means specific and definite requests
- * Our praying is not to be general, but specific.
- * We are to lay before God exactly what is needed and we are not to fear that we are being too detailed with God or bothering God.
- * Neither are we to hold back from asking because we fear He will not answer something so specific.

Too often believers fear not receiving the answer to a specific request, fear that it will show how weak they are spiritually if the request is not granted.

Note what Scripture says:

"In everything" pray like this—use all four ways of praying and use them in praying for everything.

This means

We are to walk in God—live, move, and have our being in Him—and we do this by prayer. We live and move in God through prayer.

We pray "in everything"—all day long as we walk and move about our daily affairs.

"In everything"

- * We pray in times that are specifically set aside for devotion and worship.
- * We supplicate—struggle in prayer—when facing times of deep and intense need. [Intercession]
- * We offer thanksgiving (and praise) all day long as we walk and move about.
- * We offer our requests—specific requests—to God. We ask Him to do definite things as we walk throughout the day.

3.

Matthew 7:7

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Matthew 26:41

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"

Luke 18:1

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint"

Luke 21:36

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man"

Ephesians 6:18

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints"

"Pray without ceasing"

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (AMP)

"17 Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly];

18 Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]"

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (AMP)

1 FIRST OF all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men,

2 For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way.

4.

Just think what a different world this would be, what a different community we would have if we really took the names and needs of people before God and pleaded for them in an intense brokenness and in tears. Just think...

- How many more loved ones would be saved and helped.
- How many more within our community and state and country and world would be saved and helped.
- How fewer problems would exist within society.

Scripture emphatically declares:

"Ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2)

Col. 4:2

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving"

1 Thes. 5:17

"Pray without ceasing"

James 5:16-18

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit"

People desire, even crave freedom: freedom of life and choice and freedom of worship. This is the reason we must pray for rulers...

- For wise and knowledgeable rulers.
- For moral and just rulers.
- For courageous and bold rulers.
- For compassionate and understanding rulers.

"By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked" (Proverbs 11:11)

5.

We must have a defined purpose

“The miracle power that elevates the few is to be found in their industry, application, and perseverance, under the promptings of a brave determined spirit” [Mark Twain]

* Now notice Mr. Twain said there are those who will find success under the promptings of a brave determined spirit!

* Mark Twain had his hustle on – He was using his talents, his industry, his application, to move those who read his writings to greatness, to become productive, to set a mark.

Hustle:

* **Etymology:** Hustle is a Dutch word [*husselen*] meaning to “shake”

Hustle:

* To force someone to move in a hurry in a specified direction

* To Hurry / Busy movement or activity

* To obtain by energetic activity

* To Shake

Genesis 1:2

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters”

* You see out of nothing the Spirit of the God began to hustle the Word of God.

Isaiah 11: 1-2

“1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD”

Today I am in this place to hustle you – to shake you – to stir-up the gift within you – to get you into a purpose filled busy movement and activity – to help you obtain by energetic activity the God given, purpose and destiny that is before you.

6.

You gotta have a hustle in your life my friends

- * You must be educated to your cause
- * You must become street wise [the spirit of the age wise] to your situation [say my situation]
- * You must make a determination to illuminate a productive hustle in your life.

What is your hustle?

[What is your thing?]

[What is your hype?]

[What is your direction?]

[What is your purpose?]

[What do you represent?]

[Colin Powell]

"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in the little matters - Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

- * Colin Powell is teaching us that to "Achieve Excellence in Big Things"
- * You have to get a habit
- * Colin has his hustle on.

Today I am hustling you – I want you to get a habit – I want you addicted

- * If I can get you to develop the "Habit of Achievement" you will understand that Excellence will become a "Prevailing Attitude"

You need to pick up the habit of a "Prevailing Attitude"

Prevailing meaning:

- * Prove more powerful than opposing forces!
- * Being educated in a particular area at a particular time: to be current.
- * From the Latin word meaning to have greater power

Excellence in to an exception – it is a "prevailing attitude!"

7.

NO short – cut.

True Hustle can bring you to true long lasting excellence!

Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better.

[Martin Luther King, Jr.]

*** Motivation from people who are gone!**

Helen Keller was asked one time what would be worse than being born blind. She quickly replied, "To have sight and no vision."

I've found that if you ask successful people what has really helped them get where they are in life, invariably they'll talk about a goal, a dream, a mission, a purpose—something that has been motivating them throughout the years to become what they have finally become.

Hustle:

*** Etymology: Hustle is a Dutch word [*husselen*] meaning to “shake”**

Hustle:

*** To force someone to move in a hurry in a specified direction**

*** To Hurry / Busy movement or activity**

*** To obtain by energetic activity**

*** To Shake**

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." [Martin Luther King, Jr.]

This nation the United States of America was built upon men and women who had the right perspective of the word hustle – they shook things up – they educated and put into motion – they moved in a specific direction – and that movement educated and motivated others – generations!

8.

January 20, 2009

- * This nation will witness history in the making
- * We once again for the 44th time will inaugurate a President
- * Barack Hussein Obama II

The first African American to be elected President of the United States.

* President elect - Obama was the junior United States Senator from Illinois.

President elect Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he was the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review

He worked as a community organizer and practiced as a civil rights attorney in Chicago [continuing the words of Martin Luther King Jr.] He also taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School

On January 20th 2009 with all due respect and in the context of this message President Obama is about to bring his hustle on – simply he is about to educate us – to motivate us – to make a mark that will propel this nation toward his goal.

- * Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii to Ann Dunham, a White American from Wichita, Kansas of English and Irish descent.
- * Obama's father was Barack Obama, Sr., a Luo from Kenya
- * A President who by his motivation and education could help bring forth and establish much that was set years before him.

[Martin Luther King Jr.]

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

NO short – cuts / Not allowed!

True Hustle can bring you to true long lasting excellence!

9.

Hustlin'-What is "real" hustlin'?

It's preparing oneself for the best future.

Get serious about your success.

Get your Shine On!

See It! - Say It! - Seize It!

Hebrews 11: 1

“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”

There are three levels of living. [According to John Maxwell and others]

1. *See-it level* - which is the bottom level

*** Anybody can live on this level.**

*** Everybody has the opportunity to see.**

*** Now when I say "see-it," I'm not talking about visual acuity [sight in the physical]; I'm talking about faith's opportunity. Some of us are visually acute; but blind to opportunity.**

Illustration

In my church in Ohio there was a fellow who was a great hunter.

We sometimes drove together to Columbus, a 25-mile freeway ride.

As we drove, he would say things like, "Did you see that groundhog?" No, I didn't see that groundhog. "Did you see that rabbit?" I didn't see the rabbit. "Did you see that duck?" I didn't see the duck either. We'd drive all the way to Columbus, and he'd see about 10 animals and all I would see was the freeway.

All those animals were in my range of vision, but I didn't see them because I had not been trained to look for them.

The *see-it level* of living is faith's opportunity.

We can all be looking from the same spot and not see the same thing

10.

2. The second level is the *say-it level* – this is the world of faith

To see it is the opportunity for faith; to say it is the word of faith.

* That is where we begin to verbally commit ourselves to what has gripped our vision.

* The Word of God teaches us:

Proverbs 31:26

“She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue”

2 Corinthians 4:13

“It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak”

Say – it level – verbally committing so that I am

“Achieve Excellence in Big Things”

We speak what we believe!

“Prevailing attitude!”

3. Then comes the *seize-it level* of living.

* This is the level at which faith becomes action.

*It's more than verbiage, and it's more than vision—it's a vital action within our hearts and lives.

Deuteronomy 28:13

“The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom”

We all start on level one, the *see-it level* we all have the opportunity to grab hold of faith's opportunity.

However, fewer and fewer people climb with you.

When you get to the *seize-it* stage, the action stage, you will find yourself in an elite group; most people never climb this level.

11.

Focus Your Vision

There are three areas in which we need to fine-tune our vision.

1. First, do I see myself correctly?

- * **How can we see ourselves accurately?**
- * **Spend time in prayer and meditation.**
- * **Notice problems that continually arise in your life.**
- * **What kind of problems are they and when do they occur?**
- * **If your problems are similar in nature and they occur in the same types of situations, you've never really dealt with the cause.**
- * **Ask yourself some questions: What kinds of circumstances cause me to show strong emotion, either positive or negative? What kind of people do I spend my time with?**

What spiritual gifts do I possess, and am I using them? How am I living in the light of my knowledge of God? If there are areas in which you're falling short, try to identify the reasons why.

2. The second thing we need to see is our inner desires

- * **If you could be anything you wanted to be and do anything you wanted to do, what would you be or do?**
- * **What would really bring joy to your life?**
- * **If you can answer this question, you have identified your inner desires.**

Do you surround yourself with supportive people?

Do you use past experiences to your benefit?

Do you take advantage of opportunities as they arise?

3. Thirdly, we need to get a clear sight of our God

- * **We need to see Him as the God "who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we can ask or think, according to the power that works within us" (Eph. 3:20).**

12.

**We can only do all things when we allow the Lords strength into our lives
we can only do good things without God but great things with Him!**

[Martin Luther King Jr.]

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation
where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of
their character.*

Secure That Dream!

How are we going to secure the dream of a life?

I would suggest six things:

State your dreams

Examine your motives [In the place of prayer and fasting]

Consider your options

Utilize your resources

Remove your nonessentials

Embrace your challenges

The first thing you do is state your dreams.

- * **Write them out on a piece of paper.**
- * **Look at them.**
- * **Then examine all your motives.**
- * **Do I have pure, right motives?**
- * **Make sure in the beginning that your motive is right.**

Consider all your options.

**Now that you have stated your dreams and examined your motives, sit
down and consider all of your options.**

13.

- * **How many ways can you reach this goal?**
- * **Find people around you who have a similar dream and work with them.**

Utilize your resources

- * **The Word of God spoken forth will draw in your resources**

Remove your nonessentials

- * **The letter R stands for removing your nonessentials.**
- * **Get the excess baggage off your back, anything that keeps you from achieving your dream.**

Embrace your challenges

- * **The letter E stands for embracing your challenges.**
 - * **Picture difficulties in front of you and practice reacting positively instead of negatively.**
- Learn to wring out of those challenges the best that God has for you.**