



## Effective Prayer Alignment

### I. Align Yourself with the Bible

#### A. Jesus, our example

John 4:34 (NIV®)

<sup>34</sup> "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

Luke 18:31-33 (NIV®)

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. <sup>33</sup> On the third day he will rise again."

#### B. Knowing God

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (NASB®)

<sup>11</sup> "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.

<sup>12</sup> "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'

<sup>13</sup> "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'

<sup>14</sup> "But **the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.**"

Romans 1:18-20 (NIV®)

<sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> **since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.** <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, **so that men are without excuse.**

#### C. Have God Rules Expired?

Romans 10:4 (NASB®)

<sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

James 4:2-4 (NIV®)

<sup>2</sup> You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> **When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,** that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

### II. Read the Instructions

#### A. People of Prayer

Luke 18:1 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that **they should always pray and not give up.**

Luke 11:5-10 (NIV®)

<sup>5</sup> Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' <sup>6</sup> because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. <sup>9</sup> **"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."** <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Acts 16:22-26 (NIV®)

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> **About midnight Paul and Silas were praying** and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

## B. God in Your Home

Ephesians 5:33 (NIV®)

<sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1 Peter 3:7 (NASB®)

<sup>7</sup> You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:3-5 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. <sup>5</sup> For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV®)

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## Prayer

Almighty God,

Turn to me and have mercy on me, as You always do to those who love Your name. Direct my footsteps according to Your word; let no sin rule over me. Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may obey Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your decrees. Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for Your law is not obeyed. I come in humility to seek Your ways, amen.

Psalms 119:132-136 (NIV®)

<sup>132</sup> Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. <sup>133</sup> Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. <sup>134</sup> Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may obey your precepts. <sup>135</sup> Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your decrees. <sup>136</sup> Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.

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