

# **Honest to God**

*Josh McDowell*

## I. Introduction.

- A. This is a subject that easily defeats one in his or her spiritual life - the area of prayer.
- B. The speaker never used to enjoy prayer meetings because two things were always going through his mind:
  - 1. When will I pray?
  - 2. How will I pray?

## II. Keys to being honest to God in prayer.

- A. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything through prayer and supplication make your requests known to God. (Philippians 4:6)
- B. Our requests.
  - 1. In every little tiny area we can make our requests known to God.
  - 2. He cares about all of our concerns.
- C. Our attitude.
  - 1. There should be reverence and devotion.
  - 2. We should avoid nicknames before God.
- D. The nature of our honesty.
  - 1. Supplication is the humble cry for the fulfillment of a need or a want that is keenly felt.
  - 2. It is more than needs, it is wants that we need to be free to lay before God.
- E. The condition.
  - 1. Praying with thanksgiving ahead of time.
- F. The content of our prayers.
  - 1. Our requests or petitions are to be very specific.
  - 2. The speaker used to want to be more general with prayers so that he could see them fulfilled.
  - 3. We also have to be willing to get involved in our prayers.

#### G. The results.

1. There are no promised results. Usually in the Bible there is a promise for answered prayer. Why not here?
2. God promises something far better than answered prayer - He promises the peace of God.

#### III. Tying the points together.

- A. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with Him. (1 John 1:7)
- B. Philippians 4:6 is walking in the light. We put all our feelings and wants out in the light of God.
- C. We must get things into the light of God's love.

#### D. Illustrations.

1. A basketball team whose competitive pastor did not pray to win - he wanted this, but his prayer was not honest.
2. A friend who the speaker encouraged to get his desires for a car out into the light of God's love - it got his mind off of what he wanted and on the things that God wanted.
2. Another friend the speaker encouraged to pray for popularity and fame with soccer. God magnified his desire, but he did so changing his motive to glorify God.

#### IV. Conclusion.

- A. When you have a desire, just be honest and let God deal with your heart.

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## STUDY GUIDE

### *Part 1: What do you see?*

1. What are the six keys to being honest to God in prayer?

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2. How do the speaker's illustrations display the varying results of prayer?

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3. Review Philippians 4:6 and compare it to 1 John 1:7. According to the speaker how do these verses relate to each other? Do you see any other relationships? Explain.

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### *Part 2: What do you think?*

1. Which illustration stood out to you the most? Explain.

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2. Why does praying to God for all of our wants not guarantee that we will receive them? What is the benefit of bringing to light before God all our wants and desires?

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3. Why is the peace of God something more to be desired than anything else we pray for? Give some reasons. List some examples of why this might be true.

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**Part 3: What will you do?**

1. Where is your prayer life at now? How can these biblical principles put energy into your relationship with God?

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2. Before practicing the principles of prayer, one needs to pray consistently. Develop a plan to make prayer a daily activity. What things do you need to do to make it a regular occurrence?

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3. What things do you desire that you have avoided sharing with God? Make a list and pray them through.

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