

Petition

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. - Matt 6:6

Petition: (*v*) To make a request, especially formally. (*n*) A solemn supplication or request, especially to a superior authority. Context: A prayer of request that asks for something from our Father in Heaven.

- I. Our request recognizes God as our superior authority.
 - a. He knows what we need (Matt 6:8)
 - b. He provides for us (Gen 22:14)
- II. Our request prepares us to receive.
 - a. Acknowledge our need (Matt 7:11-14)
 - i. I can't provide this on my own.
 - ii. The rebellion of Esau: independence.
 - b. Specifically thankful for our specific request (1 Sam 1:27)
 - i. Connect the dots (it's not a windfall, it's a response)
 - c. Convinced of our need (Mark 10:47-48)
 - d. Committed to our request (Matt 15:27)
- III. Petitions are relational.
 - a. The Master takes responsibility (Luke 18:7-8)
 - b. The Father takes responsibility (Matt 7:11)
 - c. Friends care about the same things (John 15:16)
- IV. We ask in faith, believing we will receive.
 - a. According to our relationship (John 15:7)
 - b. According to His will (1 John 5:14-15)
 - c. Confidence with two or more witnesses (Matt 18:19)
- V. We are invited to persist in prayer
 - a. Until our deepest desire is the same as the Lord's deepest desire (Ps 37:4)
 - b. Until we know the meaning of full joy (John 16:23-24)
- VI. Intercession is an act of petition on behalf of someone else
 - a. It is based on our relationship with God
 - b. We search for agreement between God and the one for whom we pray
 - c. Petitions help us discover our innermost thoughts, desires, and values.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! - Ps 139:23-24