Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (Teaching No. 30)

SOME KEYS TO ANSWERED PRAYER

(The "ASK formula" based on a message by John Hagee)

Jesus Himself said much about the importance of prayer and for the need to ask for those things that are needed in life. Asking God for His direction in our life and His help in meeting our needs demonstrates our dependence on and trust in Him. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD." (Jeremiah 17:7)

Jesus said to His disciples, "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." (John 16:23-24)

Jesus also said, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:13-14)

The book of James also says, "You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask." (James 4:2)

As Christians we need to have a childlike dependency on God, with prayer being an integral part of our everyday life. I will now look at nine keys which are mentioned in the bible in relation to prayer.

NINE BIBLICAL KEYS THAT RELATE TO PRAYER AND WHICH HELP TO SEE OUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED:

1) Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus (John 16:23-24) (John 15:16)

As Believers we have power and authority when using the Name of Jesus. (Mark 16:17-18) (Mark 14:14)

- 2) Pray with praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4) (Matthew 21:15-16) (Philippians 4:6) (Psalm 34:1)
- 3) Pray without any *known* sin in your life (1 Timothy 2:8)

- 4) We must pray BELIEVING that God will answer our prayers (Mark 11:23-24) (Matthew 21:21-22)
 - Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17)
 - The importance of meditating on and speaking out God's promises in His Word (Joshua 1:8)
 - Not allowing the negative things of this world to undermine our faith (Psalm 1:1-3) (Philippians 4:8) (Colossians 3:16)
- 5) Pray with the right motive (For God's glory) That the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13)(2 Corinthians 1:20)
- 6) Right relationships (walking in forgiveness towards others (Mark 11:25) (1 Peter 3:7) and seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33)) Jesus emphasised the importance of continually walking in love. (John 13:34)
- 7) Our prayers should be directed by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27)
- 8) Praying according to God's Word and will for our life (Isaiah 55:11) (Luke 1:38) (1 John 1:14)
 - "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15)
- 9) The Prayer of agreement (Matthew 18:19)