

## Effectual Prayer of the Believer Must Recognize the Plan & Will of God; Conditions for Answered Prayer, John 15:7: Fellowship & Knowledge of Doctrine

17. It is appropriate to pray for others. It is powerful to ask God's grace upon those who are suffering. But remember, their suffering may well be designed to hasten their spiritual advance and enable them to acquire their escrow paragraphs.
18. To pray that a person's suffering be removed is to fiddle with the divine plan. Pray instead, "Father, if it be Your will ... (thus and so)." Pray that the person will have clear recall of doctrine and the problem-solving device.
19. Pray that if they are not yet in the sophisticated spiritual life that the suffering will carry them there. If they already are then the suffering will carry them to spiritual maturity.
20. Pray for guidance on how you can comfort them in their suffering, provide for them, care for them, be there for them.
21. Do not pray that the suffering be removed but rather that the plan of God go forward and that the will of God be accomplished.
22. In the context of an intercessory prayer the phrase "Father, if it be Your will," may be followed by legitimate requests that the sick or injured be healed, that the grief-stricken be comforted, that burdens might become lighter, all as a result of God's grace and mercy.
23. It becomes evident that the more advanced a person is in his spiritual life the more effective his prayers.
24. Effectual prayer is dependent upon an understanding of God's will. We don't have the overall picture of his plan for as Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "Now we see through a glass darkly."
25. Limited by this hazy perception of infinite things we must instead model our prayers based on knowledge of Scripture. The Lord is specific in:

**John 15:7 -** "[**ἐάν, ean**] you **abide** [**orist active subjunctive of μένω, menō**: to remain] in Me [**filling of the Holy Spirit; status quo spirituality**], and My doctrines **abide** [**remain**] in you [**doctrine resident in the stream of consciousness**], *then* ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you."

26. Notice this is a conditional sentence. The protasis is made up of two conditions: (1) "If you remain in Me" and (2) "My doctrines remain in you."
27. This is a two-part third-class condition, identified by the conditional particle **ἐάν, ean** accompanied by the subjunctive mood of verb **μένω menō**, "to remain" which is used twice.

**John 15:7 -** "[**protasis**] If [**ἐάν, ean**] you **remain** [**orist active subjunctive of μένω, menō**] in Me [**in fellowship: maybe you will be and maybe you won't**], and *if* My doctrines **remain** in you [**maybe they will and maybe they won't**], [**apodosis**] *then* ask [**orist middle imperative of αἰτέω, aiteō**: to request with confidence] whatever you wish and it will be done for you."

28. A conditional sentence begins with a protasis which is the statement of a supposition, in our case there are two: (1) our fellowship with Christ and (2) His *epignōsis* doctrines circulating in the stream of consciousness.
29. If the conditions stated in the supposition of the protasis are fulfilled: (1) you are filled with the Holy Spirit and (2) He is processing doctrine that you know, *then* it may be concluded that the potential fact expressed in the apodosis will be realized.
30. The potential fact is that you may “request with confidence whatever you wish and it will be done for you.”
31. Two things are imperative for answered prayer: (1) fellowship with Christ through the filling of the Holy Spirit and (2) availability to the Holy Spirit of a doctrinal inventory to recall for application in prayer.
32. How is fellowship with Christ maintained? There is a basic commandment that has application to one’s fellowship with Christ and that is the maintenance of unconditional love for others.
33. The only way that the plan of God can be executed by the believer is for him to maintain *exōterikē harmonia* with fellow believers as he engages in the Invisible War. We see this in our context, the Upper Room Discourse, in:

**John 13:34 -** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.

**v. 35 -** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

34. To whom does our Lord address this “new commandment?” His apostles. They are given a commission to go out and take the message of salvation to the world and the only way this can be accomplished successfully is if they function under group harmony.
35. Ambassadors for Christ are unable to represent Him if they are in opposition to other ambassadors. The apostles had to function under esprit de corps. Some would make mistakes, fail, revert. But this was to be dealt with through love: *ἀγαπάω, agapaō*.
36. What kind of love is this? It is the love that the Lord had for the apostles. What kind of love is that? The same as he had for the entire human race.