

RULE #1
Ask, don't demand.

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14 (NAS)

Underline two words in this passage that are key to our understanding.

Questions for thought:

1. Why is it important to remember this rule as we prepare to pray?
2. Can you think of an example prayer where you told God what to do?
3. What are we to think when we are submissive in asking, yet it appears God is not answering?

Bottom line: As servants of God, we have no right to demand that God act according to our will.

RULE #2
Don't put God to a test.

You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. Deuteronomy 6:16 (NAS)

Underline one word in this passage that is key to our understanding.

Questions for thought:

1. How does "testing" God differ from "asking" for a sign?
2. What was Satan trying to get Jesus to do in his wilderness temptation?
3. Can you give an example of a prayer that puts God to the test?

Bottom line: Our prayers should not be used as a means to test God.

RULE #3
Believe in the Power of Prayer.

All things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive. Mark 11:24 (NAS)

Underline the key word in this passage.

Questions for thought:

1. Should I bother to pray if I have no confidence that God can or will answer?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says you can "remove mountains" and "cast them into the sea?"
3. Why is it good to pause and think before bringing your petition to God?

Bottom line: For answered prayer I must trust God relying on His power alone.

RULE #4
Be humble when you pray.

Because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the Lord. II Chronicles 34:27

Underline two words in this verse that are key to our understanding.

Questions for thought:

1. What is the opposite of humility?
2. Why is humility a central theme in the Bible?
3. What do you think it means in James 4:6 for God to oppose the proud but give grace to the humble?

Bottom line: Finding humbleness before you pray sets the stage for God to do amazing things, and not finding humbleness sets the stage for God to create it.