

RULE #9

Don't let selfishness create wrong motives.

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:3

Underline the two words in this verse that cause our prayers to fail.

Questions for thought:

1. Which is more important, the content of our prayer or the motives of our heart?
2. Is it possible to pray with a wrong motive and not realize you are doing it?
3. Name three things you can do to safeguard against wrong motives.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

Bottom line: Having the right motive is a must for powerful prayer.

RULE #10
Pray for your enemies.

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44

Underline the two most difficult words in this verse.

Questions for thought:

1. Why would a believer want to love their enemy and pray for someone who persecutes them?
2. Is it possible to love an enemy and pray for a persecutor without forgiving them?
3. How does the forgiveness that attends loving and praying for enemies and persecutors free us from the pangs of injustice?

Bottom line: Praying for enemies is an important element of powerful prayer.

RULE #11
Pray continuously.

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NAS)

Underline the great challenge in this verse.

Questions for thought:

1. How does constant communion with God effect intimacy of relationship with God?
2. Why is it wrong to call on God only when we want something from Him or are at a low point in life?
3. What habits can you develop that will lead you to commune with God throughout the day?

Bottom line: Believers are to pray---during the good times, bad times, and in between times.

RULE #12
Be righteous.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Underline the word that presents the greatest challenge.

Questions for thought:

1. Is there a difference between being declared righteous by God and living the righteous life?
2. Would God be right in honoring the prayers of disobedient children and obedient children equally?
3. List three habits you can develop that lead to a righteous life.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

Bottom line: The effectiveness of our prayers is directly connected to the righteousness of our lives.