

## PRAYER LESSON 130

### Pray With Honesty

“Honesty is the best policy.” We’ve all heard this adage and most would agree that it is true, but we often forget this when we pray. Many of us grew up in Christian communities that had a seemingly prescribed lingo that had to be used when addressing God. We may even have used words like “thee” and “thou” when speaking to God. Even though these words sounded a bit phony and also served to keep us from getting too close to God, we used them anyway because that was how we were taught to pray.

However, authentic prayer requires that we be totally honest before God. We must come to him warts and all, hiding nothing. We know that God knows us intimately, yet we try our best to keep our true selves hidden from him. We hide our favorite sins as if he can’t see them, but of course he can.

There are times when we might think that God has lied to us when he did not answer a prayer that we thought he ought to answer. He failed us even though we had every confidence that we were praying according to the “rules” of prayer outlined by Jesus. Rule one: Matthew 21:22, **If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.** Rule Two: Mark 11:24, **whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.** Rule Three: John 14:14 **You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.** Rule Four: John 15:7 **If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.** There are others as well. We prayed according to these rules, yet he did not answer us.

When God didn’t answer we pretended that it did not matter to us. We praised God and thanked him and all the while we were holding a bit of resentment toward him for not answering us. We were anything but honest with him. It is hard for us to “tell it like it is” when praying to Almighty God, but remember he knows our hearts and he knows when we are being less than honest with him.

So, if you are disappointed with God, tell him. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 20:7,14,18, **O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived ; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed! Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?** Wow!, ever feel like that? Tell your Heavenly Father about it, he’ll appreciate your honesty. Don’t hold back, don’t cover up, don’t try to hide your true feelings, he already knows how you feel.