

## Prayer That Changes Lives

### 1 Kings 3

In Solomon's prayer, we have an example and instructions on prayer that changes lives.

**Key Verse:** "So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Kings 3:9 (New International Version)

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.* James 3:17 (NIV)

#### ➤ INSTRUCTION #1: THE INCENTIVE TO PRAY: GOD'S GENEROSITY.

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. <sup>7</sup>Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>8</sup>Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.

1 Kings 3:6-8 (NIV)

- God's generosity lures us to prayer.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* James 1:5 (NIV)

- When we pray, we begin with who God is and what God has done.

#### ➤ INSTRUCTION #2: THE FOUNDATION OF PRAYER: GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.

- Praise becomes the basis for our confidence.
- As we rehearse God's dependability, we are encouraged in our own requests.

#### ➤ INSTRUCTION #3: THE CENTRAL CONCERN OF PRAYER: THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.

*"But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>8</sup>Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. <sup>9</sup>So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"* 1 Kings 3:7b-9 (NIV)

- God asking, "What shall I give you" is both an invitation and an inevitable test.
- What we ask God for reveals a lot about who we are.
- Concern for God's people controls our petitions and prayers.

#### ➤ INSTRUCTION #4: THE GOAL OF PRAYER: TO PLEASE GOD.

*The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. <sup>11</sup>So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, <sup>12</sup>I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. <sup>13</sup>Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. <sup>14</sup>And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." <sup>15</sup>Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.* 1 Kings 3:10-15 (NIV)

- Find out what pleases God in our lives and then pray accordingly.

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord.* Ephesians 5:1-2; 8-10 (NIV)

- God's pleasure is our chief aim.

#### ➤ INSTRUCTION #5: THE ENCOURGAMENT OF PRAYER: GOD'S ANSWER.

*When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.* 1 Kings 3:28 (NIV)

- God's answered prayers encourage us to continue to seek him.

*My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

- God invites you to pray today.

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.* Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)