

Matthew 21:22 (NLT2)

You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.

If God answered all your prayers, would it change the world, or just you? Wow, that's a tough question, I know and something I also need to examine in my own prayer life. Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, so Jesus gave them this example on how to pray.

† **Luke 11:1-4** *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "**When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.**"* (underlined for emphasis)

Notice the words I underlined. They are, "us", "our" and "we" but also notice what words are not in there, "I" and "me" because when Jesus was asked to teach us how to pray, Jesus did not focus on the I or Me in prayer, but the focus was on praying for everyone. Why?

† **Matthew 6:8** *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

Now, don't get me wrong, it's not bad to pray for our own needs. But are we praying so much for ourselves that we have little time to pray for others? Or is our prayer intense when it comes to praying for our own needs, and the prayers for the needs of others, is more a casual passing? If we all spent more time praying for each other, we wouldn't really need to pray for our own needs, because someone else would be covering that in prayer for you. If you want to see more answered prayer, pray more for others instead of yourself.

† **James 5:16** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

