



Prayer and Your Home Business

by Beth Jones

If you have your own home business, you have experienced both the sweet rewards as well as its challenges. We know to have a successful, thriving, enjoyable home business, some of the things we need to do are:

- Have a clear vision
- Know who we are and what we're about
- Have definite, precise goals
- Prioritize
- Focus
- Think positive
- Hire a coach or mentor
- Continue learning in our field of interest
- Prune unnecessary activities
- Use our time wisely and not procrastinate
- Network
- Use social media.

Yet there is nothing more important in our home businesses than that of prayer.

Prayer is simply friendship with God – talking to Him and Him talking to us. Too often we complicate it, thinking prayer requires a certain posture or a religious formula, hours of time, or us needing to change before God hears our prayers.

God simply wants to be with us because He loves and enjoys us. He is interested in every aspect of our lives, including our home business. You can come to Him today about your home business.

Some of the things we can pray about for our business include the following:

- **First, we pray to make sure that our home business is God's perfect will for our lives.** Do you truly have a desire to have your own business – or is it just a passing idea, like a fashion fad? If this is God's will for you, He will bless you in it, but it won't come through just dreaming about it or having wishful thinking. Having your own business means hard work.

Thomas Edison said it best, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Pray to make sure that a home business is what God wants for your life. Ask Him for confirmation about this business through His word and through godly counsel. Proverbs 3:6 says, "Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

- **Pray for God's will to be done for your business.** God has a specific purpose in mind for your business, just as He has a specific purpose in mind for your life. It's important to know what that mission and purpose is, so that you can accomplish it. Jesus prayed for God's will to be done, not His own. (Matthew 6:9) God wants to use your business for His eternal purposes, to expand His kingdom here on earth. Pray and ask God what His will is for your business.
- **Pray for God to use your spiritual gifts, talents, and skills to minister to others.** God created you with specific spiritual gifts, talents, and skills for His glory. Find out what they are and then use them to minister to and help other people. Remember the man in the Bible who hid his talents, and the master was displeased with him. (Matthew 25:18) God doesn't want you to waste your gifts and talents, but to use them for His kingdom and to practically help those who come across your path.
- **Pray about customers/clients.** There are several things you can pray about regarding customers or clients. Pray and ask God to bring the customers or

clients to you that He wants for you. It may be that God will use you to touch their lives, to minister to and encourage them.

Pray for God to bless your customers or clients – In their relationship with God, in their marriages and in parenting, in their relationships with others, in their finances, in their calling, etc. Pray for God to give wisdom in your interactions with clients, especially regarding any problems they or you might have had with transactions, etc. In all we do, we want to be a light of God's love to others and to handle everything we do with integrity, truth, honesty, love, and kindness (the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:21-23).

- **Pray for God to greatly prosper your business.** Many of us have a poverty mindset or misconceptions about money. Money in itself is not evil. It's the attitude of our hearts about money that matters. If we love money more than God, then it's out of order. But money is simply a tool, and a very powerful, effective tool that we can use for God's glory. Many of God's chosen people in the Bible – Abraham, King David, King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, Esther – had great wealth.

God wants to lavishly bless His people who obey Him. Being poor is not an honor to God. It takes money to spread the gospel of Christ to other nations. God wants to bless you and your business so abundantly that you will be able to bless and give to others. Ask God to bless your business and use those blessings for His kingdom.

Psalm 1:1-3 says, "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

- **Pray for your business' reputation.** Let's face it, sometimes we are going to encounter customers or clients in our business who aren't happy with us, no matter what we do. Sometimes they will over-react and slander our business. Pray for God to protect your business' reputation and your name, and pray about unhappy clients. Proverbs 22:1 (ESV) says, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

- **Pray for wisdom in hard times.** The first several years of having a home business can be the most challenging, and will usually be the test of whether it succeeds or fails. There will be other times through the years as well, when business slows or it experiences some type of setback.

At these times, ask God exactly what to do and for specific steps or for direction to prosper your business. This includes ways to be frugal and to save money, so that you aren't spending more than you're bringing in for your business. One example is using social media to promote your business, instead of paying high advertising costs. After all, a business that isn't making a profit isn't really a business!

You might try new, creative ideas, something you've never done before, or just doing things a bit differently. Be a life-long learner, and talk to others in your niche to see what they've done in difficult times to overcome them and succeed.

God will guide you as you pray and seek His will for your business. He knows what is best, so we should lean on HIS understanding, rather than our own. James 1:5 says, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

These are just of the few of the things we can pray about for our home business. Every aspect of our business should be bathed in prayer, from the tiniest details to the biggest promotions and events.

When we come to God and surrender our home business to Him, giving it all to Him as an offering, He will be pleased and will help us.

God wants us to have a profitable, successful, blessed business to further His kingdom here on earth and to help and give to others. He wants to bless you abundantly and use you mightily for His glory today! Those blessings all start with prayer.



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