

STATUTORY RULES OF CONSTRUCTION PERTAINING TO PRAYER

By Evan S. Gutman CPA, JD (2013)

I genuinely believe the power of Prayer is the greatest and most unlimited power available to man. Certainly, it is more powerful than any Court Order emanating from any Judge on any Court on Earth. It can assure the Probable and also attain what "appears" to be Impossible. Thus, the Impossible is merely Improbable and nothing more. There are no limitations of Subject Matter Jurisdiction regarding Prayers. And anyone is entitled to freely plead their case in any manner they please. It took me a lot of years (Decades) to realize this. I'm not necessarily the quickest learner in the world, but when I learn something, I learn it well. When a Prayer is answered affirmatively, it's just like winning the Jackpot. Much better than something as trivial as the lottery.

Although concededly, I often have difficulty ascertaining, which one of the statements I write is the most brilliant, I would have to say the above paragraph ranks right up there. The fact is that Prayer is a humanistic tool GOD has provided to humans, which is substantially underutilized. It really can accomplish virtually anything.

In utilizing the power of Prayer there are some basic rules that need to be complied with. Before addressing them, it is appropriate to note an important passage John Locke wrote in his Second Treatise of Government, which provides insight on the matter. He wrote:

"And he that appeals to Heaven, must be sure that he has Right on his side; and a Right too that is worth the Trouble and Cost of the Appeal, as he will answer at a Tribunal, that cannot be deceived, and will be sure to retribute to every one according to the Mischiefs he hath created to his Fellow-Subjects; that is, any part of Mankind." ²²

The basic message conveyed by Locke's passage is to be very careful what you pray for. Alternatively stated using common everyday language, "be careful what you wish for, or it may come true." With these words of caution, at least so far as I can discern the matter, the following rules pertaining to Prayer may be helpful to the average person. They have certainly worked for me.

RULE #1 - DON'T PRAY FOR ATTAINMENT OF MATERIALISTIC THINGS

This can fairly be classified as the "Lottery Prayer." As many millions of people have learned, the so-called Prayer that goes, "GOD, please let me win the lottery" is not particularly effective. It's the equivalent of saying, "the only thing I really care about is my own material comforts." That is not a message you want to convey and it will not be received particularly favorably. Even if such a Prayer is answered affirmatively, that's probably more cause for concern. It is a known, historical fact many lottery winners have not fared well in life. This is especially the case if you use the money imprudently.

However, winning the lottery in the absence of requesting such in a prayer may be viewed as a reward for a life well led. It also may constitute a vote of confidence in your moral character by the Almighty with the expectation that you will use the money wisely. Thus, while you shouldn't pray to win the lottery, you also shouldn't be afraid of winning it. I use the lottery only as a common example regarding prayers for the attainment of materialistic things. The same premise applies to other prayers for economic comforts of the world.

RULE #2 - PRAYERS ON ANY MATTERS ADVANCING YOUR OWN SELF-INTEREST HAVE A LOWER PROBABILITY OF BEING GRANTED THAN PRAYERS MADE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

There is certainly no prohibition on praying for things other than material items for yourself. Good health, happiness, a long life, friendship, or someone to love are clearly acceptable examples. But, it is a fact, that when you pray for anything on behalf of yourself, the prayer has a lower probability of being granted. A prayer for good health is a totally valid request. But, the bottom line is that praying for your own health is not as effective as praying for the good health of someone else.

RULE #3 - DON'T PRAY FOR ANYTHING BAD TO HAPPEN TO ANYONE

You definitely want to steer totally clear of what could fairly be called the "Revenge Prayer." Even if it were to be granted, you can be fairly certain it will come back to haunt you with even greater force. GOD wants us to get along with each other. GOD recognizes that we all view things differently and have different opinions on various issues. HE (SHE) also recognizes and understands that at times we will even treat each other wrongly or unjustly, which HE (SHE) will forgive us for doing. But, don't try to bring HIM (HER) into the game on your side regarding such matters. If you think someone's a Jackass, you're certainly free to inform them of such and state the reasons why. But, you definitely don't want to ask GOD to inflict any type of ill will on the person. The disputes we all have with each other are designed for us to resolve amongst ourselves in a peaceful manner. And of course, such resolution does not preclude the expression of reasonable, peaceful Passion, or the utilization of invective vituperation.

RULE #4 - PRAYERS OF GENERAL INTENT ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT DO NOT PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK

This can fairly be called the "World Peace Prayer." Obvious examples include, "Please let there be world peace, happiness, let's all get along, or I hope everyone has good health." These prayers do actually affect the world positively. They release positive energy into the Universe, which is to everyone's benefit. Consequently, they should be regularly expressed to GOD. Unfortunately though, there is a problem with these prayers. The problem is they don't generally provide us with sufficient timely feedback enabling us to ascertain whether GOD is answering the prayer affirmatively or negatively. On any given day, there are countless positive or negative things occurring in the world. Thus, you could say numerous prayers of general intent consistently and never experience the true feeling of the Power of Prayer.

Regrettably, the World Peace Prayer or any of its numerous variations are typically the prayers most religions focus on. When you go to Church or Temple, these are the types of prayers commonly said in one form or another. It is the absence of sufficient timely feedback regarding these prayers that causes many people to lack full appreciation for the existence of GOD. Going to a religious service then just becomes a mechanical and substantially irrelevant

exercise devoid of true feeling for the Almighty. Your relationship with GOD is designed to be much more personal in nature. Go to religious services if you enjoy them or skip them if you prefer. More importantly, take the time to genuinely converse with GOD on your own time at home.

RULE #5 - THE MOST EFFECTIVE PRAYERS ARE THOSE ADDRESSING SPECIFIC ISSUES TO FURTHER THE GOOD OF SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN OURSELVES, FAMILY OR FRIENDS

Okay, so no Lottery Prayers and no Revenge Prayers are bright-line rules. World Peace Prayers are commendable and encouraged, but don't provide us with sufficient feedback to fully appreciate the benevolence of GOD. Other prayers for own benefit or self-interest are acceptable, but will be considered with a "grain of salt" so to speak. This is because we are praying for ourselves. So, what does that leave you with?

It has been my experience that the most effective prayers are those we express for the good and well being of specifically identified individuals. The more attenuated our relationship with the individual is, the higher is the probability the prayer will be granted. Thus, a prayer for ourselves being naturally identified with Self, has the lowest probability of being answered positively. A prayer for the benefit of our children or parents would be the next level of consideration. This is because although prayers for our children or parents are not directly for the benefit of Self, they do indirectly benefit us if granted. When a benefit inures to our children or parents, it tends to impact positively upon us individually. This is naturally attributable to the closeness of the familial relationship. Following this line of reasoning, prayers on behalf of our brothers or sisters, then uncles or cousins, would be the next corresponding levels. Prayers on behalf of personal friends or their family members are generally quite effective. This is because our relationship with friends is not familial in nature and is typically characterized by sufficient attenuation justifying increased consideration of the prayer made on their behalf.

The matter then becomes even more acute regarding total strangers. These prayers are extremely effective. For example, let us hypothetically assume you read about a particular legal case of any nature addressing any issue in the newspapers. You have a strong belief and feeling regarding the matter. As a result, you express a prayer on behalf of the litigant. You don't even know the litigant and they don't even know you said a prayer on their behalf. This

type of prayer will be given an extremely high degree of consideration by the Almighty.

If your prayer is answered in the affirmative and the litigant who is a total stranger to you wins their case, you experience a sense of internal satisfaction from knowing GOD heard your prayer and answered it affirmatively. Of course, it is also possible HE (SHE) will answer your Prayer negatively and the litigant will lose their case. Nevertheless, it is a "Fact" that prayers you express on behalf of total strangers receive maximum consideration. Concededly, not all "Facts" can be proven. Many "Facts" are known only by "Belief" and "Faith."

Beyond the strong degree of consideration given to prayers we express on behalf of total strangers, there is only one greater level. That is when you express a prayer for Good on behalf of your political or personal enemies. There is little doubt in my mind that when you do so with a genuine and earnest intent that you want the prayer to be granted, you have either reached Heaven or at least are fairly close to it. Concededly, it's a pretty tough thing to do.

But, look at it this way. The entire reason a person is your political or personal enemy is because you believe they are wrong on a particular issue or with respect to the way they treated you, or someone you like, in some manner. Thus, the crux of the element, giving rise to the friction between the two of you is that you believe your position is "Good" and that their position is "Wrong." Thus, if you simply pray for GOD to bring "GOODNESS" to them, then what you're doing is praying for GOD to bring them over to your point of view. As I see it, while no human logic is infallible, this theory of logic is fairly strong.

From a personal standpoint, after many years of pondering the issue, I was only able to reach this level of prayer during the first two weeks of June, 2008.

It's a rather uplifting feeling.