

Crafted Prayer

Crafted Prayer, a term by Graham Cooke, refers to a prayer crafted/written based on the heart & will of God for a person or a situation.

The Apostle John writes in 1 John 5:14-15, *"Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."* We also read in Romans 8:26-27, *"Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

Jesus is interceding for us at the right hand of the Father (Romans 8:34), and the Spirit is groaning inside of us with intercession that's according to the Father's will. If we want our prayers to be powerful and effective (James 5:16), we want to lean in to hear what they are praying for us and then discerningly craft a prayer.

So, how do we write a crafted prayer? Here are the suggested steps*:

1. Begin by entering the presence of God through worship and thanksgiving.
2. Enter a place of quiet (where our burdens, worries, anxieties and expectations are stilled)
3. Bring 2021 before the Lord.
4. Ask the Spirit to show you what He wants to do in and through you in 2021.
5. Wait patiently for His revelation - it may come in sentences or different individual words, or pictures, or scriptures. Write them down as they come to your mind. Don't try to understand or analyze them. Take time to keep listening.
6. Once you feel the revelation is complete, take what you have written down, go back to the Father and ask Him to give you further understanding and clarification for each one. Write down any further insights He gives you.
7. Now take what you have received and craft a prayer based on these revelations.
8. Take a moment to sit with your crafted prayer and ask Jesus if it captures what He is praying for you for 2021. Edit it as many times as you need to until you feel confident the prayer reflects the Father's will.
9. Write this prayer on your Soil Care magnet to pray this prayer everyday.

*Adapted from Graham Cooke's book, *Crafted Prayer. The Joy of Always Getting Your Prayers Answered.*