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## **An even more important prayer tip: Be careful of what you are trying to get by prayer.**

There is a well known jaunty saying “*be careful what you pray for because you just may get it*”. But is there any Scriptural truth to this much acclaimed adage? Actually, yes there is.

We must constantly remember that God knows all circumstances in our lives better than we do. He knows the end from the beginning. He also knows what is best for us and what prayers He chooses to answer in the affirmative to our benefit. Therefore, as children of Yahweh God in Jesus Christ, wishing to walk in agreement with our Father it can never be overstated that our prayers must be in line with His will for us, and that we should not strive to “nag” God for things that we may not know for sure to be the “right thing”. Praying in the will of God for some things are easy since they are to be found clearly in Scripture. These include: praying for the manifestation of the Kingdom (Mat.6:10); that the remnant escapes God's judgment on the world (Lk. 21:36); to have wisdom and revelation about God (Eph.1:17); that God sends preaching laborers to spread the Gospel (Lk.10:2); and other very clear directives concerning prayer. For these prayers we need not add “*thy will be done, God*” for certainly we are told that they are already His will.

Where we can easily slip into spiritual trouble is in the area of praying for personal “wants” as opposed to definite needs that glorify God and His Kingdom. Sometimes personal desires do correspond with God's will, but not always. In this case it is always best to petition God with “thy will, not my will, be done”. The classic example of warning about self wants, even well intended, is with King Hezekiah and his request to God to have his life extended by prayer request. Hezekiah was a Godly man who ruled righteously as King of Judah. (II Kings 18:3) But King Hezekiah did not want to die at his appointed time (II Kings 20:1) and he petitioned God for a “life extension”, weeping greatly until Yahweh God agreed to his petition.(v.6) God granted King Hezekiah 15 extra years to the life of this man of faith, yet many of us have missed what happened as a result of this “answered prayer”. Below are 10 serious evils that resulted from Hezekiah's granted prayer for a life extension.

- 1) Hezekiah opened up the royal treasure house for examination by Babylonian diplomats and brought a curse upon the nation. (II Kings 20:13-17)
- 2) Some of Hezekiah's sons became eunuchs to the king of Babylon (II Kings. 20:18)
- 3) Hezekiah's son Manasseh (born during Hezekiah's extended years) instituted an evil reign after Hezekiah died. (II Kings 21:1,2)
- 4) Manasseh rebuilt the high places to Baal which Hezekiah had destroyed. (II Kings 21:3-5)
- 5) Manasseh built altars to astrology in Yahweh's house of worship in Jerusalem. (II Ki. 21:4,5)
- 6) Manasseh burned his son as an offering to Molech. (II Kings 21:6)
- 7) Manasseh seduced the entire nation to do more evil than the heathen nations. (II Kings 21:9)
- 8) Yahweh God pronounced a curse upon Judah making them a prey to all enemies (II Ki.21:14)
- 9) Manasseh continued to shed innocent blood in Jerusalem. (II Kings 21:16)
- 10)After Manasseh died his son Amon reigned as king “*and did evil in the sight of Yahweh as did his father Manasseh – and forsook Yahweh God*” (II Kings 21:20,22)

Who would have ever thought that an upstanding king such as Hezekiah would have brought so much turmoil upon the nation because he prayed a desired prayer in haste without seeking if it were the true will of God? There is certainly a lesson to be learned from this account and it is written for our benefit.