

PRAYER – HOW DO WE RECEIVE ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS?



THE PRE-REQUISITES OR BASICS TO ENSURE THAT OUR PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED

THANKSGIVING

I.E. EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE / GRATEFULNESS / APPRECIATION TO

Psalm 95:2

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms.

Psalm 100:4

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THANKSGIVING (Cont'd)

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body;

and be thankful

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks; *for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

THANKSGIVING

Daniel 6:10

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.



PRAISE

I.E - EXPRESSING OUR ADMIRATION OR PAYING TRIBUTE OR SPEAK HIGHLY

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 103:1-5

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Hebrews 13:15

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

PRAISE (Cont'd)

2 Chronicles 20:17-23

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

PRAISE (Cont'd)

2 Chronicles 20:17-23 (Cont'd)

²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

²² Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

²³ For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

PRAISE (Cont'd)

Acts 16:23-40

23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.



PRAISE (Cont'd)

28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

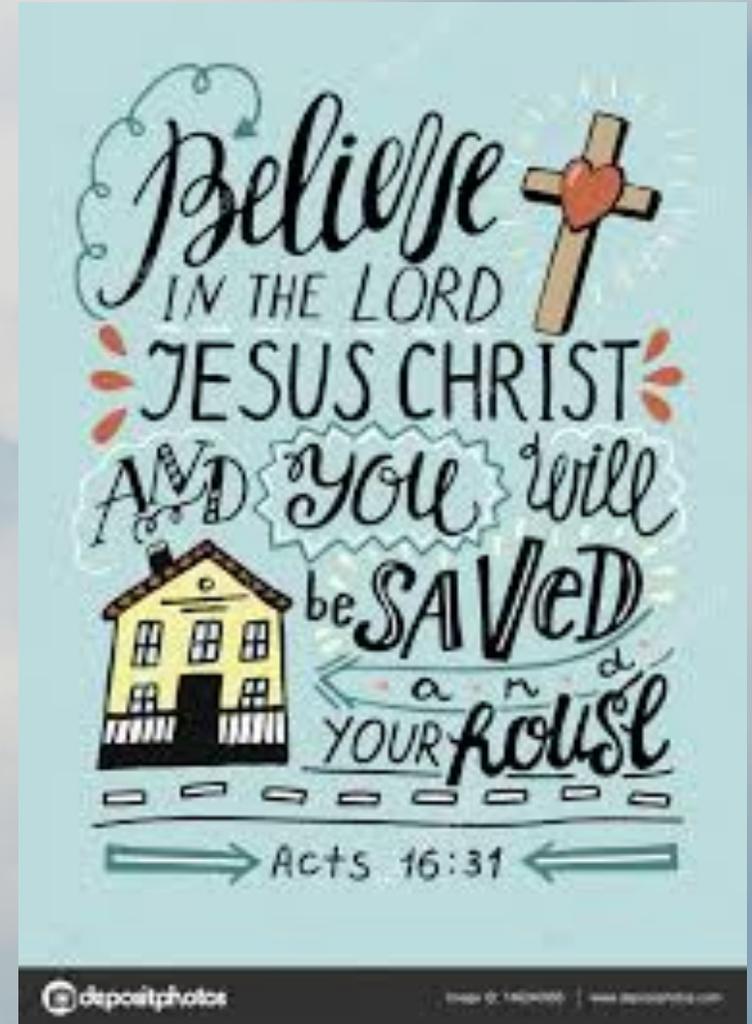
30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.



PRAISE (Cont'd)

Psalm 22:3

But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.



The Lord inhabits
the praise of His
people;

Psalm 22:3

He alone is Victory.

WORSHIP

SPEAKS OF ADORATION / REVERENCE / RESPECT / DEVOTION

WORSHIP IS GOING PROSTRATE IN HOMAGE / OR IN REVERENCE TO GOD.

ACT OF HUMILITY

Isaiah 6:1-7

*¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ **And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"** ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."*

WORSHIP

Exodus 3:5

Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Psalm 95:6

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Hebrews 12:28-29

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

Revelation 1:17

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."

CONFESSION

Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



REQUEST GOD FOR SPECIFIC THINGS

I.E – BE FOCUSED OR PRECISE WITH OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Matthew 6:11

Give us this day our daily bread.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

REQUEST GOD FOR SPECIFIC THINGS (Cont'd)

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT ALL OUR PRAYERS ARE SUBJECT TO THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD.

I.E. OUR PRAYERS MUST BE IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE LORD'S PERFECT WILL

1 John 5:14

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us



PRAYERS ARE SUBJECT TO OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD AND DOING THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING TO HIM.

I.E – PRAYING “LORD, NOT MY WILL, BUT LET THY WILL BE DONE”

“LORD, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT ME TO DO” VERSUS “LORD, I WILL SERVE
YOU ON MY TERMS”!

1 John 3:22

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him,
because we keep His commandments and do
those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

God's timing, not mine.
God's will, not mine.
God's plan, not mine.
God's glory, not mine.

PRAYERS SHOULD BE CONTINUAL:

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing,

1 Kings 18:41-45

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

⁴³ and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

⁴⁴ Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' "

⁴⁵ Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

SIN HINDERS ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

Two examples:

- **Exodus 12**

Most of Moses' prayers in the wilderness were answered. The exception was:

- *When Moses interceded for his sister Miriam – who spoke against Moses. The LORD did not heal Miriam of her leprosy upon Moses' plea because of the sin of Miriam.*

- **2 Samuel 12**

GOD did not answer David's prayer for the healing of his child through Bathsheba.

- *Why? Because of the sin of adultery committed by David. This even though David was a man after GOD's own heart.*

SIN HINDERS ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS (Cont'd)

Psalm 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

1 Peter 3:7

*⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered.***

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

SIN HINDERS ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS (Cont'd)

Isaiah 1:15

When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.



James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss [with the wrong motive], that you may spend it on your pleasures.

SIN HINDERS ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS (Cont'd)

From **James 4:3** – It is clear that:

- GOD Does not answer prayers that are focused after lust (ie, spent wrongly to satisfy our Cravings / Passions / Evil Desires) or Prayed with wrong motives

*The Good News is:
There is Hope for the repentant sinner that GOD will hear his Prayer*

SIN HINDERS ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS (Cont'd)

Isaiah 1:16-19

Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong,

¹⁷ learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; [ie "You will have plenty to eat"]

SIN HINDERS ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS (Cont'd)

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.

*⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him;*

And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

RIGHTEOUS LIVING IS BENEFICAL FOR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED

James 5:16-18

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.**

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Proverbs 15:29

The LORD is far from the wicked, But **He hears the prayer of the righteous.**

RIGHTEOUS LIVING IS BENEFICAL FOR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED (Cont'd)

Daniel 10:12

Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

Joshua 10:12-14

12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

VERY IMPORTANT FOR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED IS TO PRAY IN FAITH

HOW DOES FAITH COME?

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.



Romans 10:17

**"So then faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God."**

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

PRAYING IN FAITH

Mark 11:22-24

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.



VERY IMPORTANT FOR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED – PRAYING IN FAITH (Cont'd)

2 Corinthians 4:13

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

Job 22:28

You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

VERY IMPORTANT FOR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED – PRAYING IN FAITH (Cont'd)

Mark 9:23

*Jesus said to him, "If you can believe,
all things are possible to him who
believes."*

Believe

PRAY IN JESUS NAME

John 14:13-14

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

In conclusion:

Psalms 66:19-20

“But God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected (or ignored / turned away) my prayer / or withheld his love from me!

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

GOD BLESS YOU!