

THE REASON WHY WE DON'T RECEIVE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS

WHAT ARE GOD'S PROMISES TO US ABOUT PRAYER?

Luke 11:9-13

Christ said ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.

For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If, ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?

Matthew 7:11 also put it this way

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?

God's desire to His children is to give them every good and perfect gift from above.

What is this good and perfect gift, that He longs to give us; Is to give us His Holy Spirit;

To set us free from sin and to transform us into His image. This is all He longs for us to ask Him, but the understanding of this quote to many normally links to food, wealth, clothing etc...

God knows we are in need of food and clothing and so on, and He promises to give us that. But if you will carefully read Matthew 7:11 and compare with Luke 11:13, you will see Christ was not speaking of our daily needs, but to desire and ask of His Holy Spirit.

God wants us to pray in honest and sincere way, not in a way of formalism, He wants us to come to Him and speak to Him what is on our heart. He desires that we come to Him and open our heart as a friend speaks to a friend in whom he trusts.

Many are afraid to go to God just as they are, they think they are too sinful to go to God, but these are the thoughts that the enemy put in our mind toward God so we will not go to Him to pray and ask Him to forgive us and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness through the blood of His Son which was poured on Calvary.

There are many who find prayer as a burden, but I want to encourage you that it is a wonderful thing to do. Is like when you first met someone you love, you long to spend so much time together, without anyone interfering, your desire is to spend as much time as possible to get to know the person very well, is the same manner with Our Heavenly Father and Christ Jesus His Son, they long for a deep relationship and a vital connection with us.

God wants us to open up to Him and tell Him everything on our heart, even what we think it doesn't make sense to us; tell Him, Why? Because He understands us more than we understand ourselves, this is how good and kind He is, He doesn't throw anyone out as we humans will do.

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR QUESTIONS PEOPLE NORMALLY ASK WHEN IT COMES TO PRAYER;

- 1- IF GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING, WHY DO WE NEED TO ASK?
- 2- WHY I PRAY AND PRAY AND THERE'S NO ANSWER?

LET'S START WITH THE FIRST QUESTION

Question 1

Is true that God knows everything about us, so why do we need to ask Him at all? We need to ask Him because

- 1- Prayer is a way we communicate with God to build a deep relationship and a vital connection and reading God's word is a way He speak to us.
- 2- Imagine how we will take God if He says to us only His way we need to follow, What will be our first reaction toward God, Are we robots? Why can't I do it my way? Where is my free will, why is He stopping me of doing what I want? He is very unjust, He says He is a God of love and look what He is doing to us.

This is the reason why God is giving each one of us a freedom of choice, so we don't think He made us to be robots, and we don't have a say, but that's not so, God loves us and has given us free will to choose His offer.

Without our permission God can't do much for us, not because He can't, but because of the free will He has given us.

From my personal understanding this bible quote of ask, seek, knock is a beautiful thing from God toward us, Why? Because the moment we come to pray it means, we have chosen His offer and we will submit our will to His will, and at this point we are allowing Him to work on our prayers according to His will.

I believe till now things should be clear to you about this quote, that the purpose of it is God's invitation to us.

Question 2

Have you ever been in a position of praying, and praying and no answer from God?

If you have been in a position to pray for days, weeks, months, and even years and no answer, the thought that comes to you is that God doesn't answer my prayer. Is that so?

Is it really God who doesn't like us, or doesn't care, or could it be us who are not making right prayers, or we don't believe, or perhaps you are living in a wrong life which is hindering your prayers from being answered? These are crucial questions we need to ask ourselves, if we experience no answer to prayer.

Now Let's explore more from scripture.

Matthew 21:22

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive.

This is a beautiful quote and is a beautiful promise of God.

Many take this quote and plead with God, please You promised whatsoever we ask believing, we shall receive, please fulfil your promise as you promised.

Base on this quote whatsoever we ask we should receive it, isn't it? From my previous understanding yes, but when I start to read John 15 God is good He open my eyes to a broader picture to understand and connect with other quotes in Bible, and one of them was Matthew 21:22. Indeed the quote meant what it meant, and additional to that, I came to realise why most of our prayers don't even go through the ceiling.

Keep Matthew 21:22 in mind and let's go to John 15:7 to clarify things

John 15:7 says

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask, what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Most people pray quoting only the part of what Father said, but leaving the most important bit of us abiding in Christ, and in His word.

So brethren you can ask whatsoever in prayer believing as Matthew said, or what ye will as John said, only if we abide in Christ and in His word. So if you are wondering why your prayers don't get an answer, this is the reason.

This is not even all, to stay in Christ and in His word. John continues to explain more with details, what needs to be done.

Verse 16 says Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.

Why is it important to abide in Christ and in His word? Because if Christ is in you certain prayers we will not make, and when we pray we will ask things according to His will.

I would like to clarify two things in this matter to be aware of and what to expect, if you are praying and learning to abide in Christ and in His word;

- 1- There are times when you pray in accordance with God's will and you receive the answer as soon as you finish praying, or some minutes later, or some hours later, or the next day and so on. However patiently wait for it after prayer and be assured that the answer will come.
- 2- There are also times when you pray in accordance with God's will and the answer will not come immediate but you will have to wait for the time the Lord has appointed for it to come. It could be a week, or months, or years, Stand still keep asking and wait.

Be aware of these two differences and don't be discouraged when you pray. And for those who are not living with Christ and are praying expecting to receive an answer based on God's promises; Am here to encourage you to make step farther to abide in Christ and I can assure you, you will receive what you ask for.

We pray in tears, in sorrow, pleading to Father please fulfil your promise, but no answer. Some people after they pray for a while, and there no answer, they give up and work it out their own way, others stop the prayer, because they will say, I pray so much and God didn't answer me. Is it God who didn't answer or you are making it not to be answered, ask yourself that question.

The next step is very important

MANY THINK THAT WHEN THEY PRAY THE ANSWER SHOULD BE ONLY YES, IF IT COME NO THAT MEANS GOD DIDN'T ANSWER. IS THAT SO?

Let illustrate 4 characters from bible

- 1- When the Israelites left Egypt and came to the plain of Moab, Balak, the king of the Moabites sent messenger for Balaam the prophet to come and curse the Israelites. And Balaam said to the messengers to lodge with him for that night, he will bring them word. In the night God came to Balaam and said go not with them. And again Balak send men more honourable that before to him and said I

will promote you unto a very great honour, and whatsoever you say I will do. Balaam answered and said to the servants, if he will give me house full of gold and silver, I will not go beyond the word of the lord my God, to do less or more. Balaam told them to tarry for the night, and will bring more word from the Lord unto them. God came to Balaam and said when the men came and call thee rise and go with them, but yet the word I will say you will do. And Balaam went early in the morning with them. The first answer from God to Balaam was No, but that was an answer to his prayer, and second time God answered Yes to his prayer, but under condition to do what He will tell him to do. If you read the story carefully, you will see that.

And if you want the full story read Numbers chapter 22,23 and 24.

- 2- When Daniel prayed for the understanding of what he heard in Daniel 12:5-13, he understood not and ask in verse 8; Oh my Lord what shall be the end of these things? The Lord said go thy way Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. God said No, but that was the answer to his prayer.
- 3- Paul had a thorn in his flesh and sought the Lord thrice, and the Lord said My grace is sufficient to you. Paul also received a negative answer of prayer, and even rejoiced in it saying therefore I will rather rejoice in my infirmities. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
- 4- Our great example Lord Jesus Christ prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, in His agony He cried, Father if possible let this cup pass from me. God did answer Christ's prayer with No, but that was the answer.

Many understand about prayer that whatsoever they ask God must be Yes, but not so, the answer can be Yes and No and both are answer to prayer.

Many believe when they pray the answer should come immediately, but that's our presumption, it can never be the way we want it, how we want or when we want it, Why? Because God see better than we do, and when we will think, now is the right time, might not be the right time for God to answer us. That's why is very important to trust in His divine wisdom at all times whether it be Yes or No.

One thing we should always remember and be assured of is that God never err, we can always trust Him.

Another important thing of prayer, which is very essential to understand which I have mentioned earlier on is to be **patient to wait**, if you trust in His divine arrangement and providence trust me it won't be a problem for you to wait for a week, or months, or years, because His promises are sure and if you are honestly and sincerely walking with Him, you know the answer will come. But if you are not walking with Him, but just want only Him to answer you and the answer don't come then of course you will get discouraged and stop praying.

If you are ever tempted to say, If God cares and loves us and hears us, why does it take Him so long to answer us?

The reason is this;

So it is with every other of God's requirements. All His gifts are promised on condition of obedience. God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will co-operate with Him.

All who obey Him may with confidence claim the fulfilment of His promises. But we must show a firm, undeviating trust in God. Often He delays to answer us in order to try our faith or test the genuineness of our desire having asked according to His word, we should believe His promise and press our petition with a determination that will not be denied.

God does not say ask once, and you shall receive. He bids us ask. Unwearingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives Him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks. Christ said to Martha at the grave of Lazarus, "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God" John 11:40

But many have not the living faith. This is why, they do not see more of the power of God. Their weakness is the result of their unbelief. They have more faith in their own working than in the working of God for them. They take themselves into their own keeping. They plan and devise, but pray little, and have little real trust in God. They think they have faith, but it is only the impulse at the moment. Failing to realize their own need, or God's willingness to give, they do not persevere in keeping their request before the Lord.

Our prayers are to be earnest and persistent as was the petition of the needy at midnight. The more earnestly and steadfastly we ask, the closer will be our spiritual union with Christ. We shall receive increased blessing because we have increased faith. Our part is to pray and believe. Watch unto prayer. Watch, and co-operate with the prayer-hearing God.

Bear in mind that we are labourers together with God. 1 Corinthians 3:9 speak and act in harmony with your prayers. It will make an infinite difference with you whether trials shall prove your faith to be genuine, or show that your prayers are only a form.

Dear readers

Take some time to reflect on what you have read from this pamphlet and think where your position in this matter is. We are living in a very perilous time of our earth's history where we need to pray without ceasing. The more we pray the more we strengthen

our relationship with Christ, the less we pray, the more we distance from Christ and give the enemy more way to do whatever he wants to us.