



AUGUST 2022

**PRAYER: DOES GOD HEAR ME (WHEN I PRAY)**  
**CONFIDENT ANSWERS TO PRAYER**

Objectives:

- What does “answered prayers’ look like in scriptures?  
Favorable response and outcome toward the thing that we requested
- How do I know if God is listening to me at all?
- How can I be assured that my prayers are being, or will be, answered?
- Are there things that can hinder the answer to my prayers?

Review

**Men Should Always Pray and Not Faint**

Luke 18:1 (NASB)

“Now HE was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart”

To Pray (*Greek proseuchesthai*) Pro-Soo-Chest-ah-ee

**Pray – Interact with the LORD by switching human wishes (ideas) for HIS wishes, as HE imparts Faith (Divine Persuasion) – HOW PRAYER WORKS**

- Interact with the LORD – Intimacy by proximity
- Switching human ideas for GOD’s wishes – Exchange



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- 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NLT)  
<sup>5:6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. <sup>7</sup> Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.
- Matthew 11:28-29 (MSG)  
<sup>11:28</sup> “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”
- Isaiah 55:1-9 (NIV)  
<sup>55:1</sup> “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. <sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. <sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.” <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your



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ways my ways,” declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> **“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”**

- Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

<sup>12:1-2</sup> So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: **Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.** Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, **fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.** Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

- The Transformation process of renewing the mind positions us to walk and live in the power of the HOLY Spirit, discerning HIS will above ours
- If we do not continuously make this exchange we can be tempted to live by our own desires and needs
  - Matthew 4:1-4 (NLT)

<sup>4:1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup> For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. <sup>3</sup> During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”



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- JESUS was able to proclaim this because of the great exchange that HE made with he FATHER daily.
  
- Matthew 26:39 (NLT)  
<sup>26:39</sup> Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. <sup>38</sup> He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” <sup>39</sup> He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” <sup>40</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? <sup>41</sup> Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” <sup>42</sup> Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. <sup>44</sup> So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”
  
- The Exchange is Continuous



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## The Workout

- That's JESUS...So how do we know that GOD will Hear and Answer Us.
- 1 John 5: 14-15 (NIV)  
<sup>5:14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching GOD: that if we ask anything according to HIS will, HE hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that HE hears us— whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of HIM.
  - Confidence - Parresia – unreservedness/ freedom of speech; free & fearless confidence
  - We – Believers
  - Have – Echo' - intellectual/spiritual endowment, sensation, affection
  - Approaching – Pros – local proximity; motion toward
  - Ask – Aiteo (ahee-the'-o) – request; petition; call for; demand (JESUS was tempted to demand the transformation of the stones to bread)
  - Anything – tis – a certain one or thing, someone (not specified – not limited)
  - According to – kata (kat-ah') – from a higher to a lower plane; by way of
  - HIS will – thele'ma (thel'-ay-mah) – wishes, desires (nearly always refers to GOD)
  - HE Hears – akouo' (ak-oo'-o) (acoustic)– to listen; have regard to
  - We Know – oida – recognize; understand; realize; recognize
  - Have – echo' – possess; obtained; retained
  - Whatever we ask – aite'ma (ah'-ee-tay-mah) – petition; request
- Why do we know this? What assurance...?
  - Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)  
<sup>55:10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields



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seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup>so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

- Whatever GOD Speaks comes to pass
  - During the Exchange with GOD, HE makes known what HE has decreed
  - We pray HIS decrees
- 
- Do I Only Have to Ask, Pray what He says?
- 
- JESUS says you must also Believe
    - Mark 11:23-25 (NIV)

<sup>11 23</sup> “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”
    - Mark 9:17-24 (NKJV)

<sup>9:17</sup> Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. <sup>18</sup> And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>19</sup> He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” <sup>20</sup> Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit



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convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

- James 4:2b-3

<sup>4:2b</sup> ...yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.



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## The Cool Down (Wrap Up)

- Prayer is a Communion Resource to align us with our FATHER's purposes
- Answers to Prayer are interwoven with HIS expressed desires that are shared during our Exchanges with HIM.
  - Expressed desires are also communicated through scriptures
- Belief, when you pray, is crucial
- Confidence comes from knowing that our FATHER will not allow HIS Word to fail or be unproductive. It Must Produce
- Moments of Exchange develop a heart's posture that is conducive to answered prayer
- Know that our FATHER hears you and HE will answer



