

# **Does God Really Hear My Prayers?**

**Ps. 55:16-22**

# *Things I Must Understand About Prayer*

- God loves and knows what is best for His children. (Matt. 7:7-11)
  - 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

# *Things That I Must Understand About Prayer*

- Prayer must be according to God's will.
  - 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (1 Jn. 5:14)
- Prayer is not to be made with a selfish heart.
  - “...You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions” (Js. 4:2-3).

# *How God Answers Prayer*

- *Sometimes God says “yes”.*
  - Moses. (Ex. 32:7-14)
  - Hezekiah. (Isa. 38:1-6)
  - Daniel. (Dan. 9:18-23)
- *Sometimes God says “no”.*
  - Moses. (Deut. 3:23-25)
  - Elijah. (I Kings 19:4)
  - Paul. (II Cor. 12:7-10)
  - Jesus. (Matt. 26:36-45)
- *Sometime God says “wait a while”.*
  - Israel in Egypt. (Ex. 2:23-25)
  - Job’s prayer for an audience with God. (Job 23:1-5; Rom. 5:2-5)
  - Paul’s prayer to go to Rome. (Rom. 1:10-11; Phil. 1:12-14)

# *The Proper View of Prayer*

- Prayer will not substitute for obedience. (Matt. 7:21)
- Prayer will not substitute for repentance. (Lk. 13:3; I Cor. 6:9-11; Matt. 19:3-9; Gal. 3:26-27)
- Prayer will not change the things that God has determined. (Jn. 14:6; Heb. 9:27)
- Prayer is not an escape valve, merely last resort. (I Thess. 5:17; Ps. 55:17)
- Prayer is not a mechanism by which we activate God as our personal “errand boy”. The “name it, claim it” doctrine. (II Tim. 3:12; 4:20; I Tim. 5:23; Phil. 4:11)
- Prayer must be in faith. (James 1:6-8)
- Prayer must be made recognizing Jesus as Mediator and Intercessor. (Heb. 2:14-16; 7:25)
- Prayers of the righteous are heard by God. (Isa. 59:1-2; Ps. 66:18)

# ***Does My Life And Will Conform To God's Will?***

## ***Matt. 7:10***

- The way God wants me to think?
  - Matt. 5:3-12
- The way God wants me to exert influence?
  - Matt. 5:13-16
- The way God wants me to speak?
  - Matt. 5:19,22, 33-37
- The way wants me to exercise self-control?
  - Matt. 5:27-30
- The way God wants me to treat others?
  - Matt. 5:44; 7:12
- The way God wants me to worship Him?
  - Matt. 6:1-4
- The way God wants me to order my priorities?
  - Matt. 6:33
- The way he wants me to walk and obey Him?
  - Matt. 7:13-27