

## **Prayers and Tears**

God collects two things: prayers and tears

Prayers: Revelation – “The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.”

What does this mean to you?

Revelation – “Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God’s people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God’s people, went up before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”

God has collected every prayer we’ve ever prayed. What does this tell you about God?

“The renewal of the world, heaven and earth restored as one, begins with God pouring out all the prayers of His children like a purifying fire with one great, resounding yes.”

What does this tell you about the beginning of the end?

Prayer is also about weeping.

**Psalm 126:5** – “Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.”

What does this tell you?

Jesus said – “When the time for that full and final redemption comes, will I find men and women of faith? Will I find any who haven’t lost heart along the way?”

How important is “persistence in our prayer life” to God?

## **Choosing Trust**

“All the biblical highlights, the moments of God’s glorious interventions, were preceded by someone choosing trust.” From the woman touching His garment, the man being lowered from the rooftop, all began with the simple act of trust. What does this tell you about your prayer life and relationship with God?

Can you choose trust?

## **An Execution and a Rescue**

Peter gets thrown into jail for his faith in Jesus. James was previously executed by King Herod but God freed Peter and saved him from being executed. Both of these men were in Jesus’s inner circle. But God answered prayers and saved Peter but not James. What does this tell you about the Christians of that time?

Jesus says – “Keep on asking and it will be given to you.” Jesus wants us to be persistent. Why do you think this is so important to Him? What character is He wanting to build in us?