

must have been thrilled when he saw his people in their own beds sleeping in safety.

The problem is we do not read that David prayed about this. Sitting there in those ashes, he knew it could well be his fault because he had not asked God. Everything in him was telling him to go and rescue his people before it was too late. But now, he would not even do that without praying.

### **WE NEED FAITH IN PRAYER**

**Matt. 7 / Hebrews 11**

**“Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will open.”**

**“Without faith it is impossible to please God. We must believe God is real and that he rewards everyone who seriously searches for him.”**

Sadly, most of us are like the little boy whose mother heard him praying this beside his bed:

**“Dear God, my kitty died, my brother is still mean to me and Uncle Fred still does not have a job. And I am sick and tired of praying prayers for this family that don’t do any good.”  
Amen.”**

God answers every prayer and His answers are: yes, no or not right now. The world laughs at this because these are the only three answers there are. They say we can pray to a tree to make the cheerleading squad. if we do the tree said yes. if we don’t the tree said no. If we don’t and one cheerleader moves later and we take her place, the tree was telling us to wait. Someone told Archbishop Trench that what Christians call answered prayers everybody else calls coincidences, Trench said, “That may well be true, but the more I pray the more coincidences I have so I think I will keep on praying.”

### **WE NEED FAITH THAT GOD KNOWS BEST**

**Matt. 7 / Luke 11 and 18**

**“Jesus gave His disciples a parable so they would keep on praying and not lose heart (get discouraged and give up.) / “Would you give your child a snake if he asks for a fish?**

**You give him good gifts. How much more then, will your Heavenly Father give good gifts to you.”**

We must have faith that God *answers every prayer* but we also must have faith that when we are hurting or in need and he tells us no, His answer is best for us, for those we love or for the church as it does God’s work on earth. It is in times like this when we may be tempted to see God being like that neighbor or that judge.

Let’s say you are a dedicated Christian, very active in your church. Your child develops some kind of chronic illness and your wife has to quit work to be with him. This puts a great strain on your finances and you have trouble paying your bills. The only solution you can think of is for you to get another job part time.

A position opens at work with a much higher salary than you are making now. You are more than qualified for the position and you and your wife pray they will select you. You get your church and your Christian friends to pray,.

Someone else gets the job. He and his family never darken the door of a church. His wife has a good job and they are financially well off. Here we need the faith that God’s refusal is best. We may find out later that job would have hurt us and see that God knew best. But if we *don’t find out*; if we don’t get an answer; we must believe it was best.

In Jesus’ promise that our prayers will be answered he used the present tense: “Keep on asking; keep on seeking and keep on knocking.” We need to see God’s refusals like a flashing Red Light on the dash of our car telling us to seek to find the cause. We move to deeper levels of prayer. We go from asking to seeking. We will see more about this later, but for now, here is one of Spurgeon’s greatest quotes:

**“If I knew God would never say no to any of my prayers again, I would never pray again. His refusals are our greatest protection.**