



Bible Study - Understanding Prayer
Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Question 1

Robert has been struggling with a drug addiction for many years. Over time, he has tried to get rid of his addiction through rehab, the 12-step program and through the sheer power of his will. Nothing seems to work. His friend John has been encouraging Robert to join him at his church, the Sho Ya Right Baptist Church and on a recent Sunday he came. There he heard the pastor preach a sermon on John 14.12-14 which says:

John 14:12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

John left the church that day believing that if he simply asked God to deliver him, that God would in fact do it. He went home and prayed by faith to be delivered from his addiction.

Question: Will this work for Robert? Why or why not? What scriptures would you use to support your answer?

Question 2

Sally has been in and out of trouble for most of her life. Recently she was arrested for shoplifting at a jewelry store. She was assigned a public defender, went to trial, and was found guilty. Now she sits in jail waiting for her sentence. While there, she reads a pamphlet left for her by a visitor from Sho Ya Right Baptist Church. On the cover of the pamphlet was the following verse:

Phil. 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Upon reading this verse a sense of peace descends upon Sally. She realizes that she should not worry about sentencing because God will take care of her. Just as the verse says, she should not worry about a thing. For the first time since her arrest, she sleeps peacefully the night before sentencing.

Question: Is Sally understanding the verse correctly? Can she count on God to deliver her at sentencing? Why or Why not? What Scripture would you use to support your answer?



Question 3

Brian and Carol are a young couple who are members of Sho Ya Right Baptist Church. They have been faithful members of the church since they relocated from out of state and started dating six months ago. Over the course of the last year they have been trying to have a child but have been unsuccessful. They recently heard a sermon by their pastor on Mark 11:22-24:

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

They decide to fast and pray, asking God for a child. They are now waiting and believing that God will answer their prayer.

Question: Will this work for Brian and Carol? Why or why not? What does it mean to have faith in your prayers in this circumstance? Is there anything else they should consider before praying? Can a couple expect God to answer a prayer to give them a child?

Question 4

Milton is a member at Sho Ya Right Baptist Church and has been a member of the leadership team for several years. Recently, Milton heard a sermon on tithing but this is an area that he has struggled with. He is not a tither but he occasionally gives an offering. He believes that he does not make enough to pay his bills, take care of his family and tithe. However, he recently found out that he is up for a promotion at his job. If he gets the job, he believes it will give him the income to become a tither. He heard a sermon recently by his pastor from James 5:16:

James 5:16 ...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

He prays that God bless him with the promotion and is believing that God is going to answer his prayer and give him that promotion. If God answers his prayer then Milton promises God that he will start tithing.

Question: Will this work for Milton? Why or why not? What scriptures would you use to support your answer?



Question 5

Karen has been working in her position for some time at Lousy Jobs, Inc.. She does not like her job and wants to get out. Recently a position became open and she was thinking about applying. It would mean more interesting work, better pay, and better benefits but it may have her working on Sundays. She wants to apply but she is concerned that she may not have all of the qualifications for the job. She goes to talk to Susan, one of the sisters at Sho Ya Right Baptist Church. Susan encourages her to apply for the job and pray. Susan shares with Karen one of Susan's favorite verse:

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Susan tells her that if she is willing to cast aside doubt and believe she can get the position. Susan lets her know that God always blesses His people if they have enough faith. Karen goes ahead and applies for the job. However, immediately after she submits her application she runs into another co-worker who has also applied for the job. This co-worker has significantly more experience than Susan. She begins to worry that she has no chance at getting the promotion.

Question: If Karen doesn't get the promotion, is it because of her doubt? Why or Why not? What Scripture would you use to support your answer?

Question 6

Ray has been hospitalized for a few weeks now. He is suffering from the complications from a life filled with sexual promiscuity. While this is in his past, the consequences of his actions have followed him. He was recently listening to the Sho Ya Right Baptist Church radio broadcast when he hears the pastor preach the following text from Daniel:

Daniel 9:18: "We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

Hearing this, Ray believes that God can and will heal him from his current illness. He believes that his mistakes are in his past and God will answer his prayers. Ray calls you on the phone to celebrate the insight he has received from this sermon.

Question: Has Ray understood this text correctly? Does your past complicate God's response to your prayers? Why or Why not? What Scriptures would you use to support your answer.