

Student Handout on “Answered” Prayer, Week #2

Last Session: *Who Receives “Answered” Prayer*

Answered prayer builds faith in all. First, we have to prepare ourselves through study to learn God’s will and test what we hear, confess our sins and hold no grudges. Second, we have pray correctly, honoring God, praying for His will, asking the Spirit to interpret our prayer and the answer, all in the name of Jesus.

Tonight: *How Does God Communicate with men?*

God only answers prayers according to His will. God doesn’t change (Mal), the bible is complete, revelations in any form should be tested against God’s Word, if it isn’t substantiated, it isn’t from God. Study God’s Word.

- Judges 13:9, God sends an angel to tell Manoah her son Samson will be born a Man of God.
- Psalms 65:2, God of all power, who listens and answers with power.
- Your example _____

Jesus never asked God to do anything for him personally, not stones into bread, or legions of angels. God is not going to answer prayer to fulfill our desires, only the mission God gave us to carry out.

- Exodus 4:1, Moses talks to God, who gives him only what he needs to get the job done.
- Your example _____

God doesn’t speak in riddles. If you don’t understand something in your life is hindering your understanding. First, God isn’t speaking to your rational mind, he’s speaking to your spirit, about His plan for your life, and your role in His plan for all men, Christ’s return, and Heaven on earth, not your problem of the moment.

- James 1:25, “grasp the truth, give me a listening heart”
- Romans 8:29, “God has preordained that every listener is conformed in the shape of Jesus”
- John 11:42, Jesus said, “Father...I know that You always hear Me”
- Your example _____

Are you willingly seeking and obeying the truth, and sharing the truth, to become like God?

- Luke 12:48, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.” (Luke 12:47-48)
- 2 Cor 5:25 “we are ambassadors for Christ, God speaking through us”
- Your example _____

God Answers Prayer through:

1. His Word.
2. Other believers, like Jesus in His flesh, Heb 1:1-2, John 1:1-4,
3. Events: judgments, signs, miracles, literal “writing on the wall”, a trumpet, face-to-face, thunder, lightening, storms.
4. the Risen Christ (the Gospels record numerous conversations between Jesus and men, John 20:14-18 to those expecting a corpse; Luke 24:13-35 to a pair discussing the bizarre events of the Resurrection; the eleven disciples in the upper room, reproaching them for their lack of faith, Mark 16:14-18; doubting Thomas, John 20:24-29; Saul to Paul in Acts 9:3-5; the aging John while a prisoner on Patmos, Rev. 1:9-16).
5. Nature (Paul says in Rom 1:18-20 that nature so clearly testifies to God’s existence that those who reject Him are without excuse), and to some so clearly they can’t get past the miracles of birth, of plenty, of science being limited to discovering the miraculous intricate design behind everything they delve into, no matter how deep, until they worship Creation itself, unable or unwilling to take their homage to the source - Our Father, who made it all, including each one of us.
6. Angels (messengers in Matt 1:24, 2:24, John 20:12, Acts 5:19, 8:26, 10:30-33. Gabriel’s epochal messages Dan 8:16 & 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26; the angel who comforted Paul at sea in Acts 27:23-25)

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7. Dreams: warning the Magi not to return to Jerusalem in Matt 2:12; an angel alerting Joseph to King Herod's evil intentions, Acts 27:23-25.
8. Visions: Saul with Christ Acts 9:10-12, Paul's vision of God in Acts 9:12; Peter's view of the Gentiles in Acts 16:9.
9. Prayer: Paul in prayer hears God tell him to reach out to the Gentiles, Act 22:17-21.
10. Prophets: Acts 11:28, Acts 21:10-11. Prophecy is Spiritual Gift, Rom 12:6, 1 Cor 12:10 and Eph 4:11.
11. Casting Lots used by the disciples to replace Judas, Acts 1:23-26.
12. Signs & Wonders, miracles, world events, Matt 24:3, John 20:30-31 (Christ's miracles signs to convince people He was Christ). He rebuked the scribes for seeking signs in Matt 12:39.
13. Preachers: Peter & Paul proclaimed Christ in Rom 10:14-15. Paul “thanked God that when you received from us the word of God's message you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God” 1 Thes 2:13).
14. Scripture - after the resurrection Jesus opened the disciples minds so they could understand scripture (Luke 24:27, 45), backed up in Acts 1:20, 2:16-21 and 7:2-53.
15. An Unbeliever - Caiaphas, an enemy of Christ, communicates truth in John 11:49-53.
16. The Church. When Jesus returned to His Father's side, he left the church as a physical manifestation of his presence, Col 1:18, Acts 4:31.
17. Direct Word from the Father, Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:22). God's rebuked Peter Luke 9:33. Peter was blessed by Jesus for identifying Him as the messiah, then chastised for wanting to build buildings.
18. The Holy Spirit. In one of the ultimate paradoxes of God, Jesus told the disciples it was a blessing to them that he leave them, so the Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7). Christ brought salvation. The Holy Spirit enables us to experience salvation, reveals the truth of god's words, and helps us testify to the truth of Christ to unbelievers (Matt 10:19-20, John 14:26, 16:7-8, 13; Rom 8:26, 1 Cor 2:9-16).

The purpose of prayer is to focus on God.

God has all the power, we are weak. He may chose to protect us, but isn't obligated. We may choose to dishonor God or bring Him glory. Prayer is the process by which we rearrange our priorities and make those decisions. Remember, this isn't about getting what we want, or desire, or even what think we need at the time of our prayer. It's about God's Will, and us finding out what that is and acting on it.

We pray to listen to God, to find our His will on the problem at hand.

“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matt 6:10-11). Perhaps what is happening is part of His plan for us. We may ask for change, He may say no, or not respond at all. In which case we need to study His Word more, and pray again.

Next Week: Pray Correctly (according to God's Word)

How to prepare for prayer, or, God Listens to those who:

1. **Supplication** (Surrender to Jesus & Deny yourself)
2. **Study** the bible (modern man's “burning bush”)
3. **Believe** the Father loves you (because you accepted His Son)
4. **Pray** (meditate, honor, thank, believe, ask, listen, persist)
5. **Act** (serve others according to the plan He has revealed for you life)