

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Talking to Father

Bill Brinkworth

"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Psalm 116:1-2

One of the positives about being a child of God is we get to talk to our Daddy in Heaven. He not only hears our complaints, pleas, and supplications, but He answers them.

Some take this ability to communicate with our Creator lightly, but it is a privilege and honor to be able to converse with Him. Who are we that He would incline "his ear unto me"? He is God. There is nothing He needs. He owes us nothing, yet He listens to our prayers.

What a blessing it is to be able to speak to the One that is responsible for all on this Earth, yet that privilege is neglected often. Sadly, it usually takes a catastrophe in one's life until one reaches out to the Solver-of-Our-Situation. Perhaps that is why many have more

“emergencies” than one would expect, just so our helplessness is realized, and He is turned to and relied upon. That is what God desires of us; He wants our fellowship and for us to be dependent on His help.

I have prayed most of my life, although I was not saved until I was 28 years old. I never had prayers answered, and I thought that was how it was. We talk, and God just listens.

Even after being born-again, I continued to pray, but it took a while until I realized that God was answering my petitions. A friend, who knew I was seeking His intervention in a matter, commented one day, saying, “Hey, you were praying about that, and God answered your prayer!” From that point, I was more aware that God was answering my requests.

Many are just like I was. They do not realize what God has done much of the time. Perhaps we would be more aware of His help if our answer dropped out of Heaven in a gift-wrapped, bowed package and a note explaining, “From God with Love.” It does not work that way, obviously.

We must be more astute and sensitive to His meeting our requests how He deems fit. He does hear and does answer the prayers of His children.

Christian, are you regularly speaking to Him? Do you recognize that He has answered your requests?

“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” James 4:2

Why No Answers?

Bill Brinkworth

Do many of your prayers go up, but not all of the answers to them come down from Heaven? You are not the only one to have had this happen. Some great, biblical men of God experienced similar prayer results:

“Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through” Lamentations 3:44 It seemed nothing was getting through to God.

“Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.” Lamentations 3:8

“I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not.” Job 30:20

Have you wondered why you are not getting answers to prayers? Here is a short study of some biblical reasons for not having one's prayers answered:

- It could be because you are not one of His. You may not be born again into the family of God (John 3:3). Born again is also called “saved” (Romans 10:9). God does answer the prayers of His own!

“The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.” Proverbs 15:29

“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.” John 9:31

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7

- It could be because of sin.

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2 Iniquities are sins we commit.

“The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.” Psalm 34:6

- It could be because of considering to sin.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:” Psalms 66:18 “Regard” is “attention to the mind, respect, esteem, consideration.”

- It could be because of not obeying what God has told or shown you to do.

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” Proverbs 28:9

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” I John 3:22

- It could be because of bloodshed.

“And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.” Isaiah 1:15

- It could be you did not ask.
“The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.” Psalms 145:18
“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:8
- It could be because you asked incorrectly.
“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” James 4:3
- It could be because you were not kind or merciful.
“Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.” Proverbs 21:13
- It could be because you are unstable and cannot make up your mind.
“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” James 1:6-7
- It could be because you did not think He would or could do what you asked.
“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22

After reading this study, has God shown you one or more problems with your prayer life? If so, confess it to God. Remedy the situation. Soon you should see God answering your prayers.

“In weighty matters, wait on God. Count nothing too light to be brought to His mercy seat.” — *C. H. Spurgeon*

The Power of Prayer

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Peter’s future did not look too promising as he lay in a dark, dank prison cell. Acts 12 describes his unpleasant situation further by detailing that he was chained to guards on either side of him, was unclothed, was locked in a prison with other security outside his chamber, and was facing a death sentence from Herod.

No one would ever have suspected that Peter was leaving that jail alive. Then a hopeful word came into the story. It is a word that usually indicates that things are going to change. The word was “but” (Acts 12:5), and his predicament did change.

Peter’s gloomy situation had a different outcome of what was expected to happen because prayers got God involved. The impossible was made possible. Guards were not disturbed; however, the apostle’s shackles fell off. An angel got involved, and the prison doors flung open on their “own” account. Out walked Peter, a free man!

Just as things were altered for Peter when others started praying, things can change today when God’s people are

faithful in praying. Sick people have been cured by God's answering prayer. Fearful, dangerous situations have been transformed into peaceable ones when petitions were sent to our heavenly Father. Drunken, runaway parents have had their lives changed and salvaged because of the prayers of loved ones. Continuous supplications have gotten God involved in putting marriages back together. Prayer prompted God to do miracles at jobs, to help financial situations, to mend relationships, fix "broken" situations, and countless other "hopeless" cases.

For the Christian, calling on God in prayer can change any situation. It should be our first line of offense in battling the troubles we face in this life. There is always hope when God is involved. There is nothing God cannot do when a Christian calls on his Father for help!

"Children of God, please call home. Your Father is waiting!" — *Author Unknown*