



Receiving answers to prayer

By Bill Subritzky

1. We must abstain from sin.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23.)

2. Our sin separates us from God.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.
But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2.)

3. What is sin?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators (sex outside of marriage)

Nor idolaters (putting other things ahead of God)

Nor adulterers

Nor homosexuals

Nor sodomites

Nor thieves

Nor covetous

Nor drunkards

Nor revilers (cursing other people)

Nor extortioners (taking other people's money by threat)

will inherit the kingdom of God."

Colossians 3:8:

Uncleanness (impurity)

Using bad language

Dirty jokes

Licentiousness (indecent) e.g. pornography

(Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3-4)

Galatians 5:20-21:

Sorcery i.e. Witchcraft, for example:

Fortune telling (horoscopes),

some forms of heavy metal rock music,

Ouija boards,

drugs (wrong kind),

charms,

New Age e.g. worship of the creation,

Spiritism: Séances,

Freemasonry,

Martial Arts i.e. Kung Fu, Aikido, Tae Kwon Do, Karate, Tai Chi, Judo (rooted in Taoism and Buddhism),

Druids Lodge, Hypnosis (Hinduism Goddess Shiva), Yoga, TM, ESP, Worship of the creation (Idolatry) (Romans 1:25).

Those practicing...

Hatred

Contentions e.g. quarrelsome, causing fights

Jealousies

Outburst of wrath

Selfish ambitions

Dissensions (causing fights)

Heresies e.g. Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons

Envy

Murders e.g. deliberate unnecessary abortion

Drunkenness

Revelries (wild parties)

Revelation 21:8: Also those who are...

Cowardly (refusing to follow Christ)

Unbelievers

Abominable

Liars

4. We must be born-again of the Spirit of God.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:3-6.)

5. We must be converted and become like a little child.

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3.)

6. We should be baptised with the Holy Spirit thereby receiving the power of the Holy Spirit.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4-5.)

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4.)

7. We must love God with all our heart, soul and mind.

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40.)

8. Then we can receive the promises of God.

i). God will make His home with us.

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23.)

ii). We will abide in His love.

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." (John 15:10.)

iii). We will do great works and Jesus will answer our prayers.

"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. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:12-14.)

iv). He will give us another Helper, the Spirit of Truth.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:15-18.)

9. If we abide in God, He will answer our prayers.

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." (John 15:7.)

10. God chose us to bear fruit.

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." (John 15:16.)

9. Loving our neighbour.

Example: Parable of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:25-37.)

A man was stripped of his possessions by thieves on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. The priest passed by, so did the Levite but the good Samaritan had compassion for him bound up his wounds, put him on his animal and brought him to the inn.

10. God's love for us.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16.)

Jesus Christ showed His love to us by laying down His life for us and becoming the sacrificial lamb on the cross.

11. Jesus gave us a New Commandment.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34.)

This is not a proposal or suggestion but a **command**.

"These things **I command you**, that you love one another." (John 15:17.)

12. Taking up our cross.

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23.)

13. Importance of our relationship with our earthly father and mother whether we know them or not.

We must have a good relationship with our parents if we are going to have a good relationship with our Heavenly Father. No matter whatever wrongdoing our parents may have done towards us, we must ask our parents to forgive us for our wrong attitudes towards them and also to tell them that we honour and forgive them.

If they are dead or we don't know where they are, we must come before God and ask Him to forgive us for any wrong attitudes we have ever had towards them so that we can honour and forgive them.

When we do this we can claim deliverance at the cross of Jesus Christ from all the curses of the law.

These curses of the law are set out in full in Deuteronomy 28:15-68 and include every form of sickness and disease known to man. We can inherit the sicknesses and diseases from our parents. Any doctor can tell you this.

However when we do honour and forgive our father and mother we can claim deliverance at the cross of Jesus Christ who became a curse for us to set us free from the curses of the law. (Galatians 3:13-14.)

14. How do we love one another? By forgiving one another.

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if

you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25-26.)

15. If we don't forgive, God will not forgive us.

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15.)

16. “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.” (Luke 6:27-28.)

"But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil." (Luke 6:35.)

17. We can incur the anger of God if we don't forgive.

“And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” (Matthew 18:34-35.)

18. The Lord's Prayer tells us that God forgives us as we forgive others.

"Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we have forgiven those who trespass against us." (Matthew 6:11-12.)

19. If we walk with God nothing can separate us from His love.

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39.)

20. Real love.

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked,

thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away." (1 Corinthians 13:2-8.)

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13.)

21. Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22.)

22. Knowing the love of God.

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19.)

23. We must walk in holiness before God.

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Corinthians 7:1.)

"so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." (1 Thessalonians 3:13.)

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14.)

24. Jesus says have the faith of God.

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have the faith of God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever

things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:22-24.)

25. We must not be conformed to the pattern of this world.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2.)

26. Wrong motives.

Having the wrong motives means that God will not answer our prayer.

"[Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures." (James 4:3 AMP.)

27. God says, "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16.)

28. Then our heart will not condemn us.

"Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment." (1 John 3:21-23.)

29. Receiving answers to our prayers.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15.)

SUMMARY

Keys to receiving answers to our prayers:

- 1. Repenting and abstaining from all sin.**
- 2. Being born-again.**
- 3. Becoming like a little child.**
- 4. Being baptised in the Holy Spirit.**
- 5. Loving God with all our heart, soul and mind.**
- 6. Loving our neighbour.**
- 7. Loving one another.**

- 8. Take up our cross daily.**
- 9. Having a good relationship with our earthly father and mother.**
- 10. Forgiving everybody.**
- 11. Receiving the faith of God.**
- 12. Walking in holiness.**
- 13. Our heart will not condemn us.**
- 14. The result: We will have confidence that God will answer our prayers.**