



ARE YOU RECEIVING ANSWERS TO YOUR PRAYERS?

By Bill Subritzky

Many Christians get frustrated because they do not seem to receive an answer to their prayers.

We need to persist in prayer.

Some people expect God to answer immediately and when He does not they try other avenues. Other people persist and persist and finally do get an answer.

Jesus gave the example of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.

This was to encourage us to pray and not lose heart. In this parable the widow came to a judge who did not fear God, nor regarded man and asked him to avenge her adversary.

For while he would not do so but afterwards he said within himself, "Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

Jesus said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.

"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears along with them?"

"I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he really find faith on the earth?"

Jesus is clearly telling us here that we must persist in prayer no matter what we see or how we feel.

We must believe the Word of God.

The issue is clearly our faith. Do we really believe the Word of God?

The Scripture says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28.)

God is promising those who love God and obey Him will find that everything works out no matter how impossible the situation seems to be.

Many are called but few are chosen.

The Scripture says, "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14.)

While many people make a commitment to Jesus Christ in a meeting or elsewhere, very few follow through in real faith. They do not obey God but they expect Him to answer their prayers.

Highway of holiness.

We are required to walk on the highway of holiness (Isaiah 35:8), for without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14.)

Holiness is not the way we look or the clothes we wear but is an attitude of heart whereby we seek to walk with God daily. We do not practice deliberate sin.

Our sin separates us from God.

Scripture says that 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.

For your hands are defiled with blood,

And your fingers with iniquity;

Your lips have spoken lies,

Your tongue has muttered perversity."

(Isaiah 59:1-3.)

Thus the Scripture makes it clear that God hides His face from us if we practice deliberate sin. What is sin? The Bible describes sin as follows;

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 says,

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?
Do not be deceived.
Neither fornicators (sex outside of marriage),
not idolaters,
not adulterers,
not homosexuals,
not sodomites,
not thieves,
not covetous,
not drunkards,
not revilers,
not extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Those practicing:
Uncleanness (impurity)
Filthy language
Dirty jokes
Licentiousness (indecent)
e.g. Pornography (Colossians 3:8, Galatians 5:19 & Ephesians 5:3-4)

Those practicing:
Sorcery i.e. witchcraft (Galatians 5:20)
Examples: Fortune telling – Horoscopes
Some forms of heavy metal rock
Ouija boards
Drugs - charms
Spiritism – séances
Freemasonry
Martial Arts – Kung Fu, Aikido, Tae Kwon Du, Karate, Tai Chi, Judo (rooted in Taoism and Buddhism)
Druids Lodge
Eastern religions – Yoga, TM, ESP, Hypnosis (Hindu goddess Shiva), Shadow puppetry

Worship of the creation (Idolatry)
Romans 1:25 says, "who exchanged the truth of god for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed forever.
Amen."

Those practicing:

Hatred
Contentions e.g. quarrelsome
Jealousies
Outbursts of wrath
Selfish ambitions
Dissensions (causing fights)
Heresies e.g. Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons

Those practicing:

Envy
Murders (e.g. deliberate unnecessary abortion)
Drunkenness
Revelries (wild parties)
(Galatians 5:20-21)

Those who are:

Cowardly (refuse to follow Christ)
Unbelieving
Abominable
Sexually immoral
Liars (Revelation 21:8)

The grace of God.

The wonderful gift that God offers us is His grace. If we repent from all sin, He will forgive us. He forgave Paul a murderer of Christians and transformed him into the Apostle Paul who wrote two thirds of the New Testament. This is the grace of God, but we must not take advantage of it by continuing to sin.

God never changes.

He says, "For I am the Lord, I do not change." (Malachi 3:6.)

His promises remain forever.

"I am the Lord, who heals you." (Exodus 15:26.)

"By His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5.)

We are the ones who change.

We may cease to pray because of lack of faith in the Word of God.

Receiving answers to our prayers.

In order to receive the answers to our prayers we must keep the Word of God always before us and keep searching our hearts to ensure that we are walking in true obedience to Him and away from sin.

All things work together for good.

Remember God has promised that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord who are called according to His purpose.

His Word remains forever. He will always find a way of answering our prayer even though the way He does it may be quite different from our expectation. However, it will be for our own good.

Remember as we obey Him and love Him He is working on our case.

We are to keep on asking, seeking and knocking.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:7-12.)

Keys to receiving answers to prayer.

"Surely He has borne our sicknesses
And carried our pains;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:3)

God is a jealous God. (Deuteronomy 6:15)

Honour your father and your mother that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. (Deuteronomy 5:16)

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." (Mark 11:25)

The Lord's prayer; "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us." (Matthew 6:12)

Jesus said, "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)

Jesus said, 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)

God says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)

Faith in God

So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God'. (Mark 11:22)

"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 11:23-24)

For with God nothing will be impossible. (Luke 1:37)

Conclusion

Keep the faith, continue to believe the Lord who says, "I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6.) Have you changed? God never changes.

Compiled by Bill Subritzky and produced by Dove Ministries

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