### **They Denied Giving God** portion of the state. All weather His Due Credit

Bill Brinkworth

walk by faith.

immediately gave the credit to out to sea. their false gods! They accredited the false gods (Acts 14:13).

how the Jewish culture at that time doing. showed great distress and disappointment. God was

mighty hand in a situation. We the people of the world, and His know it is answered prayer, and workings. When something superare amazed at what He has natural does occur, they explain it done. However, it is not long until away with the only "religion" they we hear the ungodly crowd see it do know: humanism, science, or completely different.

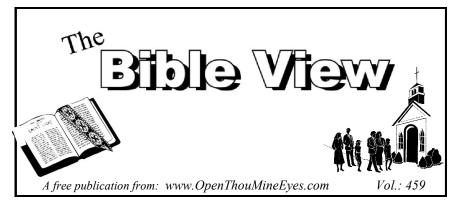
I remember when Florida was been exposed to. faced with a hurricane that was headed directly for the south-west

projections had it going straight through the state and doing much God had done a wonderful mir- damage. The hurricane got closer acle and healed a man who was and closer. It was inevitable that crippled from birth in Acts 14. the state was going to be clob-Paul was the vessel which God bered. Windows were boarded used to have the man stand and up. People left the threatened area. Dark clouds and winds ar-Then a shocking thing hap-rived. At the last minute, the hurpened. When the people saw what ricane turned 180 degrees and Paul had been used to do, they headed away from land and went

Christians were elated. They Paul to being Mercurius knew God had done the impossi-(Mercury), the Roman god of ble — again. Almost immediately commerce. They thought Barnabas the weather broadcasts had atwas Jupiter, the Latin name for the tributed it to some scientific, false god, Zeus. To make matters weather anomaly. They would not worse, soon the priest of Jupiter give credit where credit was due. had arrived, brought them gifts, They failed to see the true God and wanted to make a sacrifice to intervening. Perhaps, it was for the same reason that the crowd Needless to say, when the two who saw Paul's and Barnabas' men of the true God heard how experience was blinded. It may God's work had been interpreted have been because they were and credited to false gods, they raised without the knowledge of were shocked. Barnabas and Paul God; and therefore, did not know "rent their clothes", which was Him or what He was capable of

Unfortunately, I believe our They immediately world today is in a similar posiwent among the crowd trying to tion, as it was in Paul's day. Many explain to the people who the real people have been programmed and raised without any knowledge of Many times we see God's God: His creation, His history with other false religions they have

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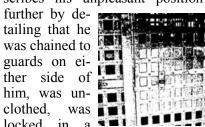


### The Situation Was Impossible, BUT ...

Bill Brinkworth

Peter's future did not look too promising as he lay in a dark, dank prison cell. Acts 12 describes his unpleasant position

tailing 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 he would leave 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 is "but" (Acts 12:5), and the situation did change.

Things changed in Peter's gloomy situation, because praying Christians got God involved. The impossible was made possible. Guards were not disturbed: however, shackles fell off the prisoner, an angel got involved,

and prison doors flung open on their "own" account. Out walked Peter, a free man!

Just as the situation was changed for Peter when others started praying, things can change today when God's people start praying. Sick people have been cured by prayer. Fearful, dangerous situations have been changed to peaceable ones, when petitions were sent to our heavenly Father.

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## **Reasons Why Prayer** May Not be Answered

Bill Brinkworth

Many do not have what they need of God because they:

Do not ask Him. "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, vet ve have not, because ve ask not." James 4:2

Ask improperly; often selfishly. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ve ask amiss, that ve may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3

Are separated from God's help because of your sin. "If I

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#### The Situation Was ...

Continued from Page 1 Drunken, runaway parents have had their lives changed and salvaged by the prayers of their loved ones. Continuous supplications have gotten God involved in putting marriages back together. Prayer has prompted God to do miracles at jobs, to help financial situations, to mend relationships, to fix broken things, and countless other "hopeless" situa-

For the Christian, calling on God in prayer can change any situation. It should be our first line of defense 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!

tions.

# Reasons Why Prayer ...

Continued from Page 1 regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" Psalm 66:18

"Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through." Lam. 3:44 Also: I Kings 8:35, Jer. 11:14, Psalm 80:4, Isa. 45:20, Isa. 59:1-2, Lam. 3:8.

Ask the wrong "god". "As-

"Children of God — please call home. Your Father is waiting!"

semble vourselves and come: draw near together, ye that are

escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save." Isa. 45:20 Are praying for a situation in which God will not intervene. "Therefore pray



people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee." Jer. 7:16 Are hypocritical: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto vou. They have their reward."

*Mat.* 6:5

Are not sincerely seeking God: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ve devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long praver: therefore ve shall receive the greater damnation."

Mat. 23:14

Without meaning they repeat the same prayer over and **over.** "But when ve pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Mat. 6:7

#### Be Grateful!

Bill Brinkworth

After passing through Samaria and Galilee, Jesus healed ten lepers (Luke 17:11-17). In the account, only one turned back and thanked Jesus, and gave God the credit. After being healed of a debilitating disease that severely disfigured their bodies and made them social outcasts, one would expect that all would be grateful. Perhaps they were, but only one expressed his gratitude.

We dare not ridicule them, because many praying Christians certainly have been ungrateful for what God has done many times for them.

We pray. We beg God to deliver us from the clutches of a disease, or deliver us from a hopeless situation, and He does. How many times did we forget to thank the Lord for His miracles and answers to prayer?

Sometimes, maybe because we did not ask God specifically how to answer our prayer request, we do not see that it is answered and by Him. Unless the answered prayer is gift-wrapped and dropped out of heaven with a note "From God, with Love", we often write the prayer fulfillment off as a "coincidence".

Here are some suggestions as to how to be more grateful for answered petitions:

Thank the Lord for the answered prayer when you originally tell Him your need. By faith, assume He is going to answer it. Sometimes the answer

will be, "Not now, later", or "No." Many times it may not be the way you expected it answered, but there will always be an answer to a Christian's reauest.

Swrite your prayer requests on a piece of paper. Pray daily for them, and when they are answered or no longer a need, put a mark next to them. Soon a marked paper will clearly show you that God is working and answering your prayer requests.

Pray daily for the need. Doing this will show God how urgent it is to you, and will make you aware that it is still a need you asked Him to help you with. When you no longer have to pray for it, you will be reminded that it is He that has met your need.

God does answer the prayer requests of Christians that seek His help. Have you thanked God for His answers to your prayers, or are you like the nine, unthankful lepers?

## They Denied Giving

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Man always has to have an answer for what happens. If they are not trained right, or shown God's Truths, they will come up their own explanations. That is why as Christians, it is so important that we fill the void of understanding an ungodly world has with the truths from the Word of God!