

When “All” Is Enough

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prayer, prayer would have been the first step in changing a situation or solving a problem. Well, there is a God in Heaven that answers prayer!

All through the Bible, God gives evidence of direct answers to prayer. In many of these situations, prayer was not only “all” that could be done; it was what should have been done first. Prayer was always the solution to the problem at hand. It was enough. Some biblical examples are:

☞ In I Samuel 1:10-13, Hannah prayed that God would open her womb, that she might have a child to dedicate to Him. Prayer was more than enough to meet her need. Not only did God give her a son, Samuel, whom she dedicated to the Lord; He also gave her three more sons and two daughters (I Sam 2:21).

☞ Elijah told Ahab (I Kings 17:1) that there would be no rain or even dew for three-and-a-half years. Eventually, there was no more food. A widow and her son thought they would die because of the famine (I Kings 17:12). God supernaturally fed them, as well as Elijah, for the remainder of the three-and-a-half years. At the end of that time, Elijah had proven to the Baal worshippers who was the true and living God, and it was now time for the drought to end. Elijah, himself, could not make it rain. All he could do was pray



and ask God for the rain. In I Kings 18:42, he did just that. In verse 45, the rain not only came, but it was a “...great rain...” more than enough to end the drought.

☞ In Acts 7, we learn of Stephen, one of the first deacons. Because of his stand for the Messiah, he was stoned by the Jews. Before he died, he asked God to “... lay not this sin to their charge ...” (Acts 9:3-6). God answered that prayer by allowing Saul of Tarsus (Paul), one of the men at the stoning, to be saved and go on to write many books of the New Testament.

☞ Jesus prayed many times during His earthly ministry. While on the cross, he prayed “... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do ...” (Luke 23:34). God answered that prayer by allowing many Jews to be saved after the resurrection. Although the Romans actually crucified Jesus, it was the Jews who demanded that he be killed (Luke 23:21). That did not keep God from saving them, however, when they called on His Son in faith for salvation.

There are many more biblical stories that could be told of the power of prayer. Suffice to say that the next time someone says to you, “Well, I guess all you can do now is pray”; I hope you will say to them with confidence, “Great, because I know that is enough.”

The Bible View



A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com

Vol.: 420

Prayer

Bill Brinkworth

Prayer is important for a Christian to communicate with God, yet so few take advantage of the opportunity to talk with God. Too



many just list the names of those they are burdened for or recite their needs like a shopping list and call it prayer. Some ask of God improperly. Some only pray when there is an emergency. Others just ask of God like He is some kind of Santa Claus, and not the creator of the universe.

“Pray” in the Bible is not always referring to asking with earnest zeal to God. Often it is used when a person is requiring something from another person as:

“Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, ...” Gen. 18:4 Also in: Gen. 19:2, 19:8, Gen. 24:14, Gen. 25:30, Ruth 2:7.

Much of the time in the Scriptures, however, it is referring to a solemn plea to the Almighty.

Although a full examination of what the Bible says about prayer is not possible in this little publication, here is some of what the Bible reveals about prayer:

☞ Jesus prayed.

“And when he [Jesus] had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray... Mat. 14:23 Also: Luke 6:12.

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When “All” Is Enough

Barbara Brinkworth

“Well, I guess all we can do is pray.”

Often, this statement is heard when people are at the end of their rope. They have done all they can do to fix a problem. They have knocked on every door of opportunity available to them. They have acted out every possible solution to a problem.

Isn't it strange they did not get to the point of prayer sooner? If they really believed that there was a God in heaven who answers

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☞ God wants you to ask Him for your needs.

"... Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Luke 11:9 Also: Mat. 7:7, John 11:22.

☞ He knows what your needs are before you ask, but God wants you to humble yourself and ask Him.

"... for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Mat. 6:8

☞ God loves to hear the prayers of the righteous!

"The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." Prov. 15:29
Also: Prov. 15:8.

☞ God does answer prayers!

"But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John." Luke 1:13 Also: II Chron. 7:12, Isa. 38:5, Psalm 6:9.

☞ One's spiritual Father in Heaven will meet one's needs better than any person on earth!

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13

☞ We need to ask by faith;

knowing that God will answer our prayers.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering..." James 1:6 Also: Mat. 21:22

☞ Pray sincerely, frequently, and often with fasting. See: Dan. 9:3, Mat. 17:21, Mark 9:29, James 5:16.

☞ Prayers will be answered for those that are obedient to God's commandments.

"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

☞ God gives us a model of what a prayer should contain. We are not to pray it; it is a prayer guideline:

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Mt 6:9-13

☞ God will be attentive when more than one are earnestly going to Him in prayer about a matter.

"... if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is

in heaven." Mat. 18:19

☞ Those redeemed by the blood of Christ (those saved) should ask in Jesus' name.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13 Also: John 14:14, 15:16, John 16:23-24

☞ The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers.

"... for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Rom. 8:26

☞ We can talk to our heavenly Father, anytime. We should talk to Him all the time!

"Pray without ceasing." I Thes. 5:17 Also: Psalm 55:17

☞ We can talk to our heavenly father anywhere, but it should be private. See: Mat. 6:6, I Tim. 2:8

☞ A saved person can ask of God for:

* Anything: Philippians 4:6

* Comfort: Psalm 119:76

* Health: Psalm 102:1, James 5:13-16.

* Helpers in the ministry: Mat. 9:38, Luke 10:2.

* Help in not being tempted by sin: Mat. 26:41, Luke 22:40.

* Help with finances: Ps. 102:17

* Help with one's enemies: Mat. 5:44, Mat. 21:22, Luke 6:28.

* His country's sake: Neh. 1:6

* Mercy: Psalm 66:20

* Peace: Psalm 122:6

* The needs of others: "II Thes 1:11, Eph. 6:18, II Thes. 3:1.,

* Wisdom.: James 1:5

☞ Many do not have what they

need of God because they:

* Do not ask Him: James 4:2.

* Ask improperly; often selfishly: James 4:3.

* Are separated from God's help because of their sin. Psalm 66:18, I Kings 8:35, Jer. 11:14.

* Are praying for a situation in which God will not intervene: Jer. 7:16.

* Are hypocritical: Mat. 6:5.

* Are not sincerely seeking God: Mat. 23:14

* Without meaning they repeat the same prayer over and over: Mat. 6:7.

☞ Prayer is needed to get back in fellowship with God.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chron. 7:14

"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Acts 8:22 Also: II Chron. 6:26, 38.

☞ It is sin not to pray, especially for others.

"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:" I Sam. 12:23

The complete version of this study is available at: <http://www.openthomineeyes.com/lessons/prayer.html>.

"PRAYER requires more of the heart than of the tongue!" — Clarke

"If Christians spent as much time praying as they do grumbling, they would soon have nothing to grumble about."