

MATTHEW 7:7-11: HOW TO HAVE YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED

We can be absolutely confident that the prayers of those really trusting in Christ will be answered:

1. IF WE KEEP ON ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS

Matthew 7:7 "Keep on asking and it will be given to you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

- Nominal believers will not have their prayers answered by God:

Proverbs 1:28 "Then they will call to me **but I will not answer**; they will look for me but will not find me. 29 Since they hated knowledge **and did not choose to fear the LORD**.

- When we pray with our whole heart and in integrity God will answer:

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek **me with all your heart**. 14 **I will be found by you,**"

- Repeated, continual prayer will be answered by God:

Matthew 7:7 "**Keep on** asking and **it will be given** to you; **keep on** seeking and **you will find**; **keep on** knocking and the door **will be opened to you**. 8 For everyone who asks **receives**; he who seeks **finds**; and to him who knocks, the door **will be opened**.

- Prayer for spiritual priorities will be answered by God:

Matthew 6:33 **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- The key thing in answered prayer is to seek the very presence of the LORD:

Psalm 27:8 My heart says of you, "**Seek his face!**" **Your face, LORD**, I will seek.

2. BECAUSE GOD IS A FATHER WHO GIVES GOOD GIFTS

Matthew 7:9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will **give** him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will **give** him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to **give** good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**

This is the Key thing in answered prayer: God is a good Father who gives good gifts to His children who ask Him in prayer.

And so we pray:

Our Father who is in heaven.

CONCLUSION

Two poems that sum up profound spiritual truth about answered prayer in a very practical way:

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek, more earnestly, His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer!
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour,
At once He'd answer my request;
And by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cried,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"Tis in this way, the Lord replied,
I answer prayer for grace and faith.

These inward trials I employ,
From self, and pride, to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."

I asked for strength that I might achieve;
He made me weak that I might obey.
 I asked for health that I might do great things;
He gave me grace that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches that I might be happy;
He gave me poverty that I might be wise.
 I asked for power that I might have the praise of others;
He gave me weakness that I might feel a need of God.
 I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
He gave me life that I might enjoy all things.
 I received nothing I had asked for;
He gave me all that I had hoped for.