

**D. L. Nicely Ministries**  
**Teaching newsletter**  
**Secret Place**  
**Volume 6... Issue 2 part 1**  
**February 10**

**Issue 2...God's Promise of Answered prayer**

Have you ever prayed repeatedly about something to no avail? It seems as though God isn't listening or worse yet you think you have done something wrong that would cause you to lose favor with him. After all the bible does say that sin blocks God from hearing our prayers;

***Psalms 66:18 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> *If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.**

Now I'm inclined to believe that it's the fact that we really don't understand prayer that is the problem. I mean most people don't really know how to communicate with God. So before you start playing the blame game for unanswered prayer and blaming yourself or God look at what the bible says about answered prayer.

***Matthew 7:7 - 8 (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

Yes God does answer prayer, he even promises to do it. He even promises to pray for us through the power of His Spirit when we don't know how to pray for our own needs.

***Romans 8:26 (NKJV)** <sup>26</sup> *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

So with that being said I feel safe to say that God desires to answer our prayers but keep in mind that our requests must be;

- **Asked in faith...**

***Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)** <sup>22</sup> *And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”**

- **Be without selfish motives;**

***James 4:3 (NKJV)** <sup>3</sup> *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

- **And be according to the will of God...**

***1 John 5:14 - 15 (NKJV)** <sup>14</sup> *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

Now before we get into the specifics of how to pray the promises of God let's understand some hindrances to answered prayer.

**--First I think some people have a hard time asking...** You know how men hate to ask for directions when they are lost. Others are too proud to ask for help when they are in need. And some are just so busy they never really get around to asking so how do you know if God is answering your prayers?

--And of course many don't pray often enough because of reasons like **worldliness**.

**John 17:16 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup>*They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

No voice from the world is advising you to pray. Sometimes we become so worldly minded that the spiritual exercise of prayer seems futile. But friend all you really have to do is ask him for your needs.

**--Busyness** means rush, rush here and there. Some people say they are too busy to take the time to ask God for anything, but the same people are never too busy to play a round of golf, or go shopping or even go every one of their child's soccer games. For most the truth is it's not a matter of busyness, but instead a matter of priority. Trust me mom and dad it is more important that your child learn how to communicate with the creator of the universe that win a soccer tournament. If you don't believe me now you will soon they grow up.

**--Faithlessness...** For some reason we doubt that things will turn out different because of our prayers so we don't pray. Perhaps James's assessment is true when he says you do not have because you do not ask. James 4:2 We have to ask before we can expect to receive.

**--Feeling Distant...** We feel distant from God's presence so we fail to talk to him. Some even feel like strangers with God, which is terrible since he loves them so much. Friend at these times just remember that God hasn't gone anywhere. Just close the gap and take time to communicate. The more you ask the more you receive answers to your prayers.

**--Ignorant of God...** We simply don't understand God's power or goodness. His desire and ability to bless us is beyond what we can think of or even ask for.

**Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)** <sup>20</sup>*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

**--Deliberate sin...** Of course deliberate sin can create a barrier between us and a caring God. Remember Psalms 66:18. But if we simply confess it he hears and then becomes open to our future prayers.

**Psalms 34:15 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup>*The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.*

**--Pride...** We think we don't need God. So we try to do it ourselves.

**--Inexperience...** Because we don't know how to pray we don't try. Friend's prayer is a skill that must be learned and the more you pray the more you learn how.

**--Laziness...** maybe this is the saddest reason of all for unanswered prayer. We are just not willing to make the effort to pray because we are too lazy.

Now that we have looked at and discussed some hindrances to answered prayer let's look at how to put God's power to work for us to get answers to prayers.

- **Take and honest assessment of yourself...**

Are you using any excuses for not praying? Why not ask God to help you overcome them.

- **Consider starting a prayer list...**

Make a list of people or things to pray for. Be organized as you do the business of God which is prayer. You may even record your prayers and answers if you would like. I did this for years myself and it was awesome seeing how God came through for me time and time again.

- **Memorize then ASK acrostic...**

**ASK** and you will receive.

**SEEK** and you will find

**KNOCK** and it will be opened for you.

- **Instead of locking yourself up in a room for an hour a day why not include God in your whole day...**

God wants to be a part of your morning, noon and night. Take him to breakfast with you then to work, then to the supper table and bathtub or shower, then even to bed when you go to sleep. Whatever you do seek God and you will get better acquainted with him.

**--Set and goal of praying for five straight minutes to start with.** But remember the more time you spend praying the more answers to prayer you will have and the more answers to prayer you will receive.

***Philippians 4:6 - 8 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

Next month we are going to look at the promise of a changed life.

Continued next month