

Does God Hear Our Prayers?

(Matthew 7:7-11)

- Introduction:
1. Prayer is one of the greatest privileges that God has given unto his children.
 2. However, we may not have the degree of faith in God and prayer that we should have.
 3. The reason some don't have the faith in prayer is often due to experiencing what they feel is a failure on God's part to answer.
 4. Some may be asking, "Does God really hear our prayers?"
 5. Let's examine Luke 1:5-11 in light of this question.

I. Zacharias and Elizabeth

- A. They were both godly people (1:6).
- B. They were both older people (1:7).
- C. However, an angel told them that their prayers for a child had been answered (1:11-13).
- D. Zacharias was surprised, indicating that he had not recently been praying for a child (1:18).
- E. Might they have asked many of the same questions that we ask?
- F. However, in this case, God hadn't forgotten their prayers, He had simply delayed His answer.

II. How to Deal with Prayers Apparently Unanswered

- A. Don't Forsake God.
 1. Zacharias and Elizabeth were both probably disappointed, but they did not turn their backs on God.
 2. When Zacharias learned that they were going to have a child, he was in God's house.
- B. Remember That Our Prayers Simply May Be Delayed.
 1. God is omniscient; He knows best when we need what we need.
 2. (Matthew 6:19-34).
- C. Remember That Our Prayers Must Be In Accordance With God's Will.
 1. (1 John 5:14).
 2. God knows what is best for us.
- D. Remember That We Must Be Righteous.
 1. (James 5:16; Proverbs 28:9).
 2. God has never promised to answer the prayers of an unrighteous man.
- E. Remember God's Perspective.
 1. Just think of all the contradictory prayers that God receives.
 2. We must trust that what is done is best, whether I understand it or not.

- Conclusion:
1. Prayer is powerful.
 2. Don't neglect your prayer life - use it to your good and your neighbor's.