

Prayer: Does it Make a Difference?

(Matthew 7:7-11)

- Introduction:
1. Many of us would probably admit to feeling inadequate concerning our prayer life.
 2. While there may be several reasons for that, one reason may be that we fail to see God as a Father.
 3. I believe that regaining that perspective would help us communicate more frequently in prayer and receive the help that we so often need.
 4. Let's consider how prayer is impacted when we remember that God is our Father.

I. God Will Not Begrudge Our Prayers.

- A. To "begrudge" means to give reluctantly or resentfully.
 1. If I ever needed help, my father would be my best chance at receiving it.
 2. Likewise, if my children ever need help, I will do whatever I can within my power to help them.
- B. (Matthew 7:7-8).
- C. God is not our adversary.
 1. Sometimes we grow weary of asking and listening, but God does not.
 2. Remember, our view of God is not to be shaped by our fathers, but our fathers are to be shaped by the fatherhood of God.
- D. Prayer doesn't overcome God's reluctance but takes hold of his willingness!
- E. (Luke 18:5).
- F. (Isaiah 62:6-7).

II. God Does Not Belittle Our Prayers

- A. (Philippians 4:6).
- B. Nothing is too small.
- C. (Matthew 7:9-10).
- D. (Genesis 30:30-42).

III. Why Our Prayers Are Sometimes Unanswered

- A. They may not be asked in faith (James 1:6-7).
- B. We may be sinful when asking (1 Peter 3:12).
- C. We may ask amiss (James 4:3).
- D. We may not ask according to his will (1 John 5:14).
- E. Sometimes our "unanswered" prayers are just delayed (Luke 1:5-13).

- Conclusion:
1. We are so blessed to know a God who is not just our Creator, Master, and Lord, but who has identified himself as our Father, and we, as his children!
 2. (Ephesians 3:20).