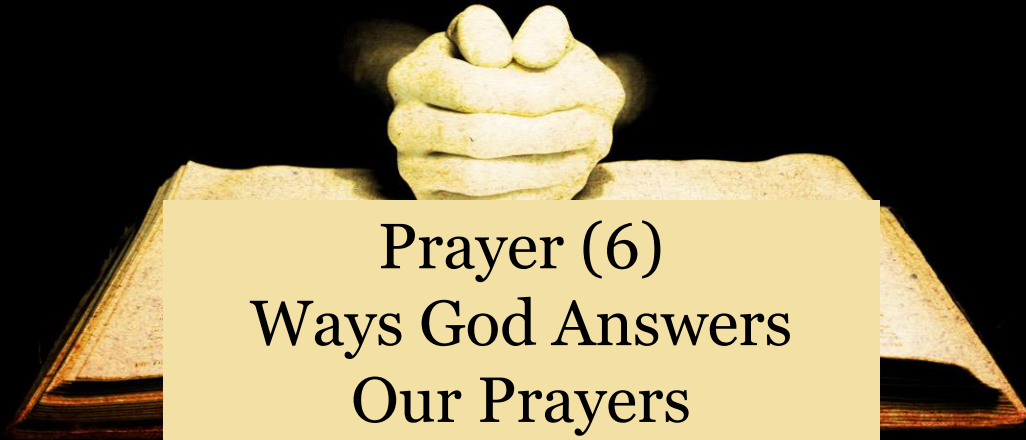


Communicating with God

A study of prayer and Bible study



Prayer (6)
Ways God Answers
Our Prayers

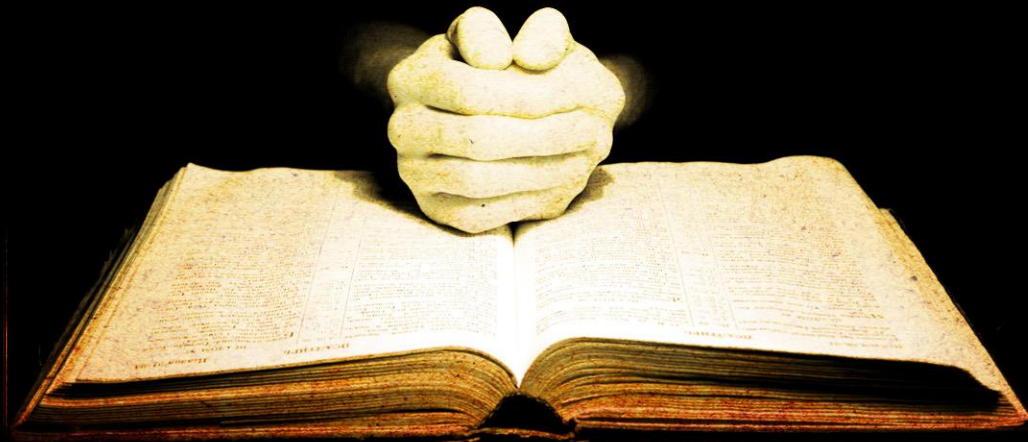
A study of prayer!



- As we continue our examination of God's part in prayer, we have addressed:
 - Access to God (through Jesus)
 - God is Able...
 - God can work providentially.

Prayer (6)

Ways God Answers Prayers Today



Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme



God is faithful!

- The Bible tells us plainly that God is faithful

1 Corinthians 1:9

1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Numbers 23:19



God is faithful

- Means, He will NEVER violate His own character, purpose, or word.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Romans 10:11 (cf. Isaiah 28:16)

- Demonstrated through Biblical accounts.
God keeps His promises.
 - Sometimes decades or centuries later
(Abraham, David, etc.)



God is faithful

- In this life, man often disappoints – leaders, business, even friends and family –
- But God and His word are always dependable (**John 17:17**)
- He is able to preserve us
1 Thessalonians 5:23
2 Peter 2:7-9, Jude 24
- The Lord stood with Paul
2 Timothy 3:10-11, 4:17



God is faithful

- Therefore, we ought to trust Him -
Jeremiah 17:5-8
- BECAUSE He is faithful, we pray to Him with confidence.

Psalm 143:1

Hebrews 10:23



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

- With confidence and trust, we can pray to Him. But HOW is He going to answer us?
- Be reminded that He WANTS us to pray and to answer the prayers of His people

1 Thessalonians 5:17

James 5:16

1 John 5:14-15

1 Peter 3:12



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

- BUT we must understand that how He answers our prayers may not be the way we think.
- Furthermore, He may choose to NOT become involved in a given circumstance
 - Often, (probably most of the time) He let's life take its course
 - He will not remove our freewill
 - We should not expect Him to perform a miracle or make us the exception
(**cf. James 4:3**)



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

YES! He may grant our request

- **Psalm 3:3-4** – “I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.”
- Hannah – **1 Samuel 1:27 (10-18)**
- **Acts 4:27-33, 12:5, etc.**
- While these involved miraculous intervention, God can just as powerfully grant our requests



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

YES! He may grant our request

- BUT, there are parameters we must respect
- **1 John 5:14** – Let it be according to His will
- **1 John 3:22** – we keep His commandments, striving to please Him
- **James 4:3** – NOT for selfish reasons



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

YES! But NOT the way you expect

- God may grant your request, but it is different from what you are thinking
- **Isaiah 55:8-9**, His ways and thoughts are not ours. His ways are higher. He knows what is best!
- Remember Naaman - **Cf. 2 Kings 5**
UNTIL he complied with God's instructions he remained a leper.



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

YES! But NOT the way you expect

- **James 1:2-4**, trials produce patience
Romans 5:3-5, tribulations produce perseverance, character and hope.
- Be careful what you ask for and prepare:
 - Patience
 - Loving neighbors or brethren
 - Increased faith
- God's answer, WHILE BEST, is often different and not comfortable



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

No!

- Sometimes God says no! But He is still answering and knows what is best.
- **Luke 22:39-46**, Jesus in the garden. BUT He sent an angel to comfort Him
- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, Paul's thorn in the flesh. "My grace is sufficient"
Paul accepted His answer.



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

NO!

- When we pray, we should NEVER demand that God give us what we want, the way we want it!
- Do not forget that God may simply be “hands off” in a given circumstance.
- NOTE: Do not go looking elsewhere for the answer you want. If something is “amiss” (**James 4:3**), BEWARE!



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

Wait!

- God's answers do not always come in our time.
- **Luke 18:1-8, esp. vs. 7-8**
- **Ephesians 6:18**, we pray always with perseverance
- Abraham had to wait 25 years for Isaac (and he made some mistakes while waiting)
- Give God time to answer His way!



Ways God Answers Our Prayers

Wait!

- How long should I wait?
Until it is answered!
But remember, the answer may be “no”
(including His choice to not become involved)
- Meanwhile, be content!

Philippians 4:11-12



God can and still does answer
our prayers, even if we do not
understand how or when



Are you living so that God will
answer you?





Let us pray!