

# 1 John 3 - Whose Prayers Does God Answer?

June 4, 2015

## 1 John 3:22

**“AND WHATSOEVER WE ASK, WE RECEIVE OF HIM, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”**

### WHAT IS ANSWERED PRAYER?

1. Prayer is not the collective energy of positive thinking.

*Answered prayer is God’s supernatural intervention in the lives and circumstances of men in response to their requests they make known to him.*

2. Prayer is:
  - a. *the blending of God’s heart with your heart, God’s mind with your mind*

*James 1:5*

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

- b. *the blending of God’s plans and purposes with your circumstances*

*2 Corinthians 12:8*

*"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me."*

- c. *the blending of God’s resources with your needs*

*Philippians 4:19*

*"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

### WHAT CAN I ASK FOR?

**1 John 3:22 “AND WHATSOEVER WE ASK, WE RECEIVE OF HIM...”**

**Mark 11:22–24**

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, **HAVE FAITH IN GOD.**

23 For verily I say unto you, **THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL SAY UNTO THIS MOUNTAIN, BE THOU REMOVED, AND BE THOU CAST INTO THE SEA; AND SHALL NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT SHALL BELIEVE THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH HE SAITH SHALL COME TO PASS; HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAITH.**

24 **THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, WHAT THINGS SOEVER YE DESIRE, WHEN YE PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM, AND YE SHALL HAVE THEM.**

**Matthew 7:7–11**

7 ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU:

8 FOR EVERY ONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVETH; AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN GIVE GOOD THINGS TO THEM THAT ASK HIM?

**John 16:23–24**

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK THE FATHER IN MY NAME, HE WILL GIVE IT YOU.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ASK, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL.

**James 4:2** "...YE HAVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ASK NOT."

*"Nothing is more pleasing to our Father in heaven than direct, importunate, and persevering prayer." D.L. Moody*

**WHAT SHOULD I PRAY ABOUT?**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17–18**

17 PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

18 IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU.

**Philippians 4:6**

"Be careful for nothing; BUT IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD."

**Ephesians 6:18**

"PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

**Proverbs 3:5–6**

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, And he shall direct thy paths.

## WHOSE PRAYERS DOES GOD ANSWER?

### 1 John 3:22

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, **BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, AND DO THOSE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.** “

### Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:  
2 **BUT YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD, AND YOUR SINS HAVE HID HIS FACE FROM YOU, THAT HE WILL NOT HEAR.**

#### **GOD ANSWERS THE PRAYERS:**

1. of those seeking His heart, mind and will with all their heart and life
2. of the repentant; those broken with godly sorrow
3. of the afflicted, cast down, broken, suffering

#### **GOD DOES NOT ANSWER THE PRAYERS:**

1. of those who live to please themselves (*the self-willed, the proud, the selfish*) instead of pleasing God
2. seeking temporal relief with no intention of repentance, change or submission to God's will
3. of the religious, self-righteous, double-minded

### James 4:3

**"YE ASK, AND RECEIVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ASK AMISS, THAT YE MAY CONSUME IT UPON YOUR LUSTS."**

### Proverbs 15:29

**"THE LORD IS FAR FROM THE WICKED: BUT HE HEARETH THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS."**

### Proverbs 28:9

**"HE THAT TURNETH AWAY HIS EAR FROM HEARING THE LAW, EVEN HIS PRAYER SHALL BE ABOMINATION."**

### 2 Chronicles 7:12-14

12 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

14 **IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.**

John 9:31 - (spoken by the blind man healed by Jesus with clay from spittle)

**"NOW WE KNOW THAT GOD HEARETH NOT SINNERS: BUT IF ANY MAN BE A WORSHIPPER OF GOD, AND DOETH HIS WILL, HIM HE HEARETH."**

**1 John 5:14-15**

14 **AND THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE IN HIM, THAT, IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARETH US:**

15 **AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEAR US, WHATSOEVER WE ASK, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE PETITIONS THAT WE DESIRED OF HIM.**

**John 15:7**

**"IF YE ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU."**

**Jeremiah 29:12-13**

12 **THEN SHALL YE CALL UPON ME, AND YE SHALL GO AND PRAY UNTO ME, AND I WILL HEARKEN UNTO YOU.**

13 **AND YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND FIND ME, WHEN YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.**

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 **LET US DRAW NEAR WITH A TRUE (sincere, genuine) HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, HAVING OUR HEARTS SPRINKLED FROM AN EVIL CONSCIENCE, AND OUR BODIES WASHED WITH PURE WATER.**