

PRAYING FOR A BETTER YEAR – PART 2

Pastor Rick Reager – January 24, 2021

I. WHY DO WE OFTEN NEGLECT PRAYER?

1. _____ FROM PREVIOUS PRAYERS

II. WHY ARE OUR PRAYERS OFTEN INEFFECTIVE?

1. WE _____

“¹ One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. ² “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. ³ A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ ⁴ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, ⁵ but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’” ⁶ Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ⁷ Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?” Luke 18:1-8

2. WE DON’T MEET THE _____ FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

II. WHAT ARE THE BIBLICAL CONDITIONS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER?

1. I MUST HAVE AN _____

“⁷ But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!” John 15:7

“²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

i. Have I Refused To _____?

“¹⁸ If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened.” Psalm 66:18

“² But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.” Isaiah 59:2

“¹³ People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

“⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.” 1 John 1:9

KEEP IN MIND, THERE ARE:

a. _____

b. _____

ii. Am I Currently, In The Present, _____?

“²¹Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²²And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him. ²³And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. ²⁴Those who obey God’s commandments live in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.” 1 John 3:21-24

iii. Do I Really Want God’s _____?

“¹⁴And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. ¹⁵And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.” 1 John 5:14-15

iv. Am I _____ Above Other Things?

“³¹So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³²These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:31-33

“²⁰Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:20-21

v. Am I _____ God When I’m Not Asking For Something?

“⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” John 15:4-7

2. I MUST HAVE A _____

“²⁴Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it. ²⁵But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.” Mark 11:24-25

“¹⁵Watch out that no bitterness take root among you for as it springs up among you it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.” Hebrews 12:15

3. I MUST BE WILLING TO _____

“¹³If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.” Proverbs 21:13

“²²And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him. ²³And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us.” 1 John 3:22-23

“¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” 1 John 3:17

“¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” James 4:1-3

KEY: God Will Only Bless _____ As He Is Trying To Produce _____

“⁶Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” ⁸And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

4. I MUST BELIEVE _____

“⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” James 1:5-8

“²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” Matthew 9:29

“⁶ So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

KEY: A _____ Faith Can _____

“²⁰ ‘You don’t have enough faith,’ Jesus told them. ‘I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.’” Matthew 17:20

5. I MUST PRAY _____

“¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” John 14:13-14

“²⁴ You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.” John 16:24

KEY: This I More Of An _____ Than A _____