



## THE REASONS WHY GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Jeremiah 33:3

### Physicians Believed in the Power of Prayer

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In a recent survey of 269 doctors, a remarkable 99% said they were convinced that religious belief can heal. In fact, that's 20% higher than the figure for the general public.

Why do doctors feel this way? "Because we've seen the power of belief", said Dr. Herbert Benson, author of "Timeless Healing," which offers scientific evidence that faith has helped to cure medical conditions. "We've seen that belief is powerful in conditions including angina pectoris, asthma, duodenal ulcers, congestive heart failure, diabetes, all forms of pain. We see it all the time, and we can't deny it."

What's more, 75% of the doctors believe the prayers of others can help a patient's recovery, and 38% said they think faith-healers can make people well. The survey was conducted by Yankelovich Partners at a meeting of the American Academy of Family Physicians in October.

Physicians recognize the limitations of drugs and surgery, noted Dr. Benson, who added: "The real breakthrough is the acceptance of these approaches by modern medicine." On Dec. 15, he will head a Harvard Medical School conference on spirituality and healing, to be held in Boston, with another scheduled for Los Angeles in March.

"We have scientific data showing that people who use self-help—relaxation, nutrition, exercise and belief—reduce their visits to doctors by 30% to 60%, said Benson. "In a prepaid system, that's money in the bank." **Parade, Spokesman-Review, December 1, 1996, p. 18.**

**God answers prayers.** When He does, He does it on His terms not ours. I believe this is how God answers our prayers.

- If the request is wrong, the answer is no.
- If the timing is wrong, the answer is wait.
- If our heart is not right in His eyes, the answer is repent.
- If the request is right, the timing is good, and the heart is acceptable before His eyes, the answer is “I will”.

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY GOD ANSWERS PRAYER:**

## **I. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **Who is Jesus?**

- Jesus is God. He is the creator, the life, and the light of men. He was also incarnated to be with us to save us.

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>14</sup> And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

- Jesus is the visible reflection of the invisible God.

*Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

**John 14:9** Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

- Jesus Christ is the source of creation, the creator Himself.

**Colossians 1:17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Jesus is the sustainer of creation. It is through Him that the planets and moons, and countless stars are being held together and not bumping against each other causing a colossal devastation. It is through Jesus Christ that life on earth is sustained despite the many natural and manmade calamities destroying lives. It is through Jesus Christ that the Church is sustained. No matter how much damage the devil had inflicted against the church, it continues to multiply. It is through Jesus Christ that marriages are sustained in spite of all the attacks that the devil hurled against it. It is through Jesus Christ that our faith grows stronger after going through all kinds of trials and temptations.

When you think of who Jesus is, you cannot help but be awed by the love of God for us giving us the confidence and the assurance that everything will be alright because through Christ our prayers are answered.

**Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

## List of Blessings God gave us through Jesus from Romans 8

- **The blessing of freedom from the power of satan and sin.** *v.1 there is now no condemnation in Christ Jesus. Why? Because Jesus set us free from the law of sin and death.*
- **The blessing of relationship, v. 16-17** *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*
- **The blessing of success, v.28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* In Christ everything that happens, that are happening, and will be happening are raw materials of God's blessings to us, even if many of them are painful, frustrating, and heartbreaking.
- **The blessing of victory, v. 31** *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?* No challenge can prevail and survive before Christ.
- **The blessing of answer to prayer, v. 32** *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

Jesus is the first reason that God answers prayers. Jesus confirms it with his own word with this passages **John 14:13, John 16:23**

**2 Corinthians 1:18** *But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No."* **19** *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."* **20** *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

**NOTE:** To pray in the Name of Jesus, means that request must be consistent with that Name. Jesus (**Yeshua – YAWEH is Salvation**) is a holy and sacred Name. The Name above every name, the Name given to us by which we must be saved. The only Name the devil respects. The Name where every knee should bow and every tongue confess that He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## II. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER TO HONOR HIS WORD.

To man promises are made to be broken. To God promises are given to be fulfilled.

- **God has a word of honor because He is God**

*Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*

- **God's word is impeccable, perfect – Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119**
- **God's word is powerful**

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

- **God promised to answer our prayers**

*Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'*

*Isaiah 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.*

- **God's Word of Honor is Flawless, perfect and impeccable. God will not say anything that He will not do and that includes the answer to our prayers.**

**Isaiah 55:10** *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

- **Joshua is the living witness who saw with his own eyes and testified the fulfillment of the promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He wrote;**

**Joshua 21:43** *So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. <sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD handed all their enemies over to them. <sup>45</sup> Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.*

**Joshua 23:14** *"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.*

- **God is true to His Word.**

**Deuteronomy 8:17** *You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." <sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.*

**Deuteronomy 9:5** *It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

### **III. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER TO MEET OUR NEEDS**

**Hebrews 4:16** *Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**Matthew 6:8** *Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

It was said that in its early days, Dallas Theological Seminary was in critical need of \$10,000 to keep the work going. During a prayer meeting, renowned Bible teacher Harry Ironside, a lecturer at the school, prayed, "Lord, you own the cattle on a thousand hills. Please sell some of those cattle to help us meet this need." Shortly after the prayer meeting, a check for \$10,000 arrived at the school, sent days earlier by a friend who had no idea of the urgent need or of Ironside's prayer. The man simply said the money came from the sale of some of his cattle!  
*Today in the Word, MBI, January, 1990, p. 36*

**To the Skeptics they would say it is just a coincidence. To us it is a definite answer to prayer.**

Over ten years ago, I was pastoring a Church. My wife was not working. Our only source of income was my monthly allowance from the Church. One December, God spoke to my heart to give back to the Church my first allowance on the coming year. I talked to my wife about it and she agreed. We told nobody and we have to **trust God** to supply our daily needs on the first month of the year.

One Sunday after the worship service, a lady from the church handed my wife a good amount of money for our personal use something she'd never done before. As she was handing the money, she told my wife why she's doing it. She said 3 nights in a row she had the same dream. In the dream, the Lord Jesus was telling her to go to Pastor Driz and give him money for their personal needs. The instruction was clear but she was in doubt if it was from God because she never had such an experience before. So she just shrugged it off for 2 days. But on the 3<sup>rd</sup> night, Saturday night, while she was sleeping soundly, she said she saw Jesus standing before her telling her the same message. My wife told her, I rejoice not because of the gift but because of your obedience to God. Wait and see how God is going to do in your life. Two weeks later, they received a bonus of P500,000 from the piggery owner whom they were getting their daily supply of pigs for their business something they never expected to happen.

**NOTE:** Lesson 2 page 10 tells us the needs that God meets in answer to our prayers.

## CONCLUSION

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**1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray continually.” (without ceasing)**

**Colossians 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”**

## What’s the Difference?

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### **A Church That Prays**

1. Prays about what it does.
2. Prays at its convenience.
3. Prays when there are problems.
4. Has guilt—knowing it should pray more.
5. Announces a prayer meeting—some in the church show up.
6. Asks God to bless what it’s doing.
7. Thinks it is too busy to pray.
8. Is frustrated by financial shortfall—cuts back on ministry.
9. Fits prayer in somewhere.
10. Uses God.

### **A Church Devoted to Prayer**

1. Does things by prayer.
2. Prays at God’s command.
3. Prays when there are opportunities.
4. Has joy—desiring to pray more.
5. Announces a prayer meeting—the church shows up.
6. Asks God to enable it to do what He is blessing.
7. Knows it is too busy not to pray.
8. Prays through financial shortfall—receives money miraculously.
9. Gives priority to prayer.
10. Is used by God.

***Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.***

Sir George Adam Smith (Scottish bible scholar and Old Testament professor) tells how he and his guide were climbing the Weisshorn in the Swiss Alps. It was stormy and they were making their climb on the sheltered side of the peak. When they reached the summit, they were filled with so much excitement. Sir George forgot about the fierce winds, leaped up and was nearly blown over the edge to the glacier below! Fortunately, the guide quickly got hold of him. And as the guide grabbed hold of him, he exclaimed: “On your knees, sir. Here, you are only safe if you are on your knees.”



Life on earth is filled with all kinds of uncertainties compounded by the fact that according to **1 Peter 5:8** *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* If you are not on your knees, the devil can easily spot you for a meal.