The Heart God Hears

(A Message on Prayer)
Selected Scriptures
2-5-2023

Introduction:

Because of Christ's Sacrifice, believers have boldness to enter God's Holy Presence (Heb.10:19-22). However, does God hear everyone's prayer?

Note the Plea of David: "Hear my prayer" (*Psalms 4:1; 54:2; 55:1; 61:1)*

**** God hears prayers that come from the heart. Whose Heart does God Hear?***

I. God hears a <u>Righteous</u> Heart (Prov.15:8,29; James 5:16; I Pet.3:12)

II. God hears an <u>Obedient</u> Heart (Prov. 28:9; I Jn. 3:22)

III. God hears an <u>Earnest</u> Heart (Jer. 29:13; Mk. 9:29; Ex. Hezekiah's Prayer – Is. 38:5)

IV. God hears a <u>Believing</u> Heart (Mt. 21:22; Ja. 1:6-7; 5:15)

V. God hears a <u>Scripture-filled</u> Heart (Jn. 15:7; I Jn. 5:14-15)

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Proverbs 15:8
The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight.

Proverbs 15:29
The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

James 5:16
Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 Peter 3:12
For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

II. God hears an <u>Obedient</u> Heart (Prov. 28:9; I Jn. 3:22)

Proverbs 28:9
He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

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.

III. God hears an <u>Earnest</u> Heart (Jer. 29:13; Mk. 9:29; Ex. Hezekiah's Prayer – Is. 38:5)

Jeremiah 29:13
And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Mark 9:29
And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

IV. God hears a <u>Believing</u> Heart (Mt. 21:22; Ja. 1:6-7; 5:15)

Matthew 21:22
And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

James 1:6-7
But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 5:15
And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

V. God hears a <u>Scripture-filled</u> Heart (Jn. 15:7; I Jn. 5:14-15)

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.

1 John 5:14-15
And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

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Prayer is often the first area in our Christian life that gets neglected. (and yet it is the most important)

THE ESSENCE OF PRAYER (what is it?)

God created man to fellowship with Him (Sin has broken that fellowship; but the Grace of God in Christ restores that fellowship)

Man's communication with God. He communicated to us in His Word - the Scriptures (written Word), and by His Son - Jesus Christ (incarnate Word) (Heb.1:1-ff).

Prayer is simply: "Asking, seeking, and knocking" Mt.7:7

Different types of prayer: Asking for self; asking for others (intercession); praise & worship, thanksgiving etc.

Prayer is not:

1) Reciting memorized poems or Scripture (with vain repetition)
2) Reminding God of that which He already knows (the prayers of many people seem to be sermons at God or reminding Him of things He already knows)

THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER (why pray?)

When we pray we are not telling God or asking God for something He is not aware of already - so why pray?

Basically for 3 reasons: 1) **it pleases God**, 2) **it glorifies God**, and 3) **it benefits us**.

A. IT PLEASES GOD (He desires it)

Prov 15:8 -The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

1. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD

1Thes 5:17-18 - Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Tim 2:8 - I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

2. IT IS A COMMAND OF GOD

Ps 27:8 - When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto
thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

Luke 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men
ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Col 4:2-3 - Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us

1 Pet 4:7 - But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober,
and watch unto prayer.

Rom 12:12 - Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing
instant in prayer;

1 Tim 2:1 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Eph 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the
Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication
for all saints; (note: the word "all")

If it is a command to pray then not to pray is **sin!** and a lack of prayer is **sin!**
(Samuel said to Israel: 1 Sam 12:23 - Moreover as for me, God forbid that I

should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:)

B. **IT GLORIFIES GOD** (He is shown (proven) to be mighty, sovereign, faithful, etc.)

1. **IT REVEALS <u>GOD'S GREATNESS</u>**

Jer 33:3 - Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

ex. Christ's prayer before raising Lazarus (Jn.11:39-42).
The lost (skeptical) world needs to see a God who is alive, and a
God who responds. (ex.Elijah I Ki.18:36-39)

2. **IT REVEALS <u>MAN'S DEPENDANCE</u>**

We are dependant, limited in what we know and can do. We need
supernatural power!

Technological advances today can tend to make us:

a) Proud - <u>I</u> can do it!

b) Independent - I can do it <u>without God</u>!

(My observation: Prayer has always been an activity men struggles with (ex. Disciples <u>sleeping</u> in the Garden of Gethsemany) Yet today it appears that it is done <u>less</u> frequently than ever before in history, although tons of books have been written on the subject.

Your prayer life actually reveals how <u>humble</u> you are.
In prayer (worship, praise) you are acknowledging God for who He is.

In prayer (asking forgiveness) you are acknowledging your own sinfulness and need for forgiveness.

In prayer (making personal requests known) you are acknowledging your dependance. (ie. that you do not know all, nor do all - that is we can't do that which is of eternal worth by ourselves)

In prayer (intercession) you are acknowledging that the world does not revolve around only you; that others have needs that God is interested in meeting.

C. IT BENEFITS US

1. PRAYER IS GOD'S APPOINTED WAY FOR HIS CHILDREN TO RECEIVE THINGS

The world expects to get things solely by work, planning, scheming or by accident. "Ye have not because you ask not" Ja.4:2 (not b\c you work not, plan not etc.)

Our needs are met by prayer:
God wants to give guidance (An ability to <u>know</u>)
Prov 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Ex. Joshua & the Gibeonites -
Joshua 9:14 - And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.

God wants to give us an ability to <u>do</u> that which we (by ourselves) cannot.
Matt 17:21- Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

God wants to give us gifts (blessings) to <u>have</u> that which we do not have the ability acquire for ourselves

Song: "My Father is rich in houses & lands, He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands; Of Rubies and diamonds, of silver & gold, His coffers are full - He has riches untold."

2. PRAYER IS GOD'S WAY FOR CHRISTIANS TO HAVE FULLNESS OF JOY

How happy is a child who never asks & receives from his parents. Prayer is the secret to gaining real joy!
Jn.16:24 - "that your joy may be full"

3. PRAYER IS NEEDED TO GIVE US SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

"It is foolish and wicked to try to do God's work without God's power"
2 Chron. 7:14 - 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.

The power of the Holy Spirit is vital! Cp. the book of Acts - the power & boldness of the disciples because of prayer. See Acts 6 - the results of the apostle's praying. Cp.Eph.3:19

We are always looking for better methods (programs); what we need is better men.

Prayer is a necessity ("don't leave home without it")

Some PREREQUISITES TO PRAYER

Before you can pray effectively there are some requirements that must be met.

Just as a servant would not dare enter the presence of the king in a disrespectful manner we cannot enter the throne room of God any way we please. We must meet God on His terms.

We must be in a right relationship with God (saved).
We must be in a right fellowship with God (sanctified)

THE PERSON GOD WILL NOT ANSWER

A. AN UNSAVED PERSON

1. You need to be in God's family

(an unsaved man is not part of God's family - Eph.2:2-3)

God does not answer the Devil's kids (Jn. 8:44)
Ex. Of a child who comes up to some one other than his dad and says "I want you to buy me a new bicycle" He is under no obligation to answer that request.

You need to be born again! (Jn. 3) = born into God's family by
adoption.

How can one pray in “Jesus Name” if they do not belong to Jesus? (John 14:13)

How can one pray “according to His will” when they have not done His will which is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? (I John 5:14-15)

Note: However, God does hear the sincere prayer of one who is seeking His salvation (ex. Cornelius - Acts 10; The Publican, who said: “God, be merciful to me the sinner”)

2. You need to pray in the Spirit

Eph 6:18
Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jude 1:20
But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
(an unsaved man does not have the Spirit - Rom. 8:9)

God will not answer the prayers of…

B. AN <u>UNSANCTIFIED</u> PERSON (An unholy believer)
(This refers to a person who is unholy; not set apart from sin unto God)

Illustration: Answers to prayer are like water - they meet a basic need in life. Prayer like the pipes through which water passes provides a channel for God's power to flow into our lives. To actually have water in our homes we must tap the main water supply. However the pipes often become <u>blocked up</u> by dirt etc. and our water supply dwindles or stops altogether. This is similar to our prayer lives. God will not and can not answer prayers that come from hearts filled with sin. <u>Sin</u> blocks the channel.

What is it that clogs the channel of our prayer life? The answer is one word - "<u>sin</u>"

GOD WILL NOT ANSWER PRAYER IF THERE IS <u>UNCONFESSED SIN IN THE HEART</u>!

Ps 66:18
If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
Isa 59:1-2
Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
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 is not demanding "sinless perfection" (but confession is essential - I Jn.1:9)

Don't blame God because He refuses to give you your requests.
His power has not diminished, nor is He losing His hearing, nor has He changed.
<u>You</u> are responsible for God's silence; You are to blame! YOur sins have cut the lifeline of prayer.

Isa 1:13-15
Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.
Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.
And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

The phrase "spread forth your hands" means to hold out the hands (palms up in prayer) expecting to receive from God.

Can you imagine God forbidding a man to pray?

Jer 7:16
Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

No one can both sin and pray. "True prayer will prevent us from sinning, or sin will prevent us from praying"

Ex. Simon the Sorcerer (acts 8) who asked Peter to pray for him because he knew he was not able to pray for himself while in such wicked sin.

Obedience is necessary before prayer will be answer.
I Jn 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.

THE SINS THAT PREVENT GOD FROM ANSWERING YOUR PRAYERS ARE:

A. PRAYING WITH A SELFISH SPIRIT

James 4:3 - Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Wrong motives in prayer. ex. of selfish praying - Mt. 20:20-ff The mother of James & John.

"seek ye first the kingdom ... and all these things shall be added unto you" Mt.6:33.

Some pray that their spouse will get saved just so that they might enjoy (the benefits of his/her salvation) a peaceful and "happy" home rather than out of concern for their soul.

B. PRAYING WITHOUT FAITH

Mt.21:22 - And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Unbelief is sin!

The word "amen" comes from the Hebrew word [ ] which is most often translated "believed".
Example: Gen 15:6 "Abraham believed God..." Transliterated it reads "Abraham amened the Lord" When you conclude your prayer with "amen" you are actually saying "so be it" or "it will truly happen" This is faith!

C. PRAYING WITH UNFORGIVENESS

Mark 11:25 - And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Bitterness and holding grudges are the equivalent of hatred. Such attitudes grieve the Holy Spirit.

We are to forgive 70 times 7 (Mt. 18:21-22)

We must forgive as Christ forgave us (Eph.4:32)

D. PRAYING WHEN THERE IS <u>DISOBEDIENCE IN YOUR MARRIAGE</u>

1 Pet 3:7 - Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Wives not submitting (v.1) "hinders" your prayers v.7.
Husbands not loving (v.7) "hinders" your prayers v.7.

"hindered" = cut in on (interfered with)
You will not pray together if your relationship is not right.
God will not answer you if your relationship is not right (because you are living disobediently to His commands)

Because of Christ's Sacrifice, believers have boldness to enter God's Holy Presence (Heb.10:19-22). However, does God hear everyone's prayer?

Note the Plea of David: "Hear my prayer"

Psalms 4:1
Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me *when I was* in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

Psalms 54:2
Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalms 55:1
Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.

Psalms 61:1
Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

**** God hears prayers that come from the heart. Whose Heart does God Hear?***

I. God hears a <u>Righteous</u> Heart (Prov.15:8,29; James 5:16; I Pet.3:12)

Proverbs 15:8
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James 5:16
Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:17
Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Elijah was: 1) a "Man" - we tend to view Bible heroes as superhuman.
2) "of like passions" = same nature (feelings, experiences) as others.
Elijah had the same struggles and weaknesses as other men have.

"He prayed fervently" = lit. He prayed with prayer.
The Hebrew would repeat the word to stress intensity.

Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain as a form of judgment on the idolatrous kingdom of Ahab and Jezebel (I KI. 17ff).

Too many people don't pray in their prayers. They just lazily say religious words, and their hearts are not in their prayers (Wiersbe, p. 172).

1 Peter 3:12
For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

Though God is Spirit, He is personified as having *"eyes," "ears,"* and a *"face."*

***"For"* =** because. God gives us a very practical reason to speak right, live right, and pursue peace with each other.

It's because He, with favor, looks out for those who do right.

Although God is omniscient (knows all) and sees all, He looks upon the just with special blessing.

(On the contrary, God as it were looks away from the unrighteous, like one would turn his back upon an abominable scene.

Even a Christian can at times act unrighteously and forfeit for a time God's blessing.

Have you ever felt like a dark cloud swallowed you up and you couldn't get out? It seemed like God wasn't hearing your prayers? Nothing was going right? This message is for such a wayfaring believer.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Prov. 15:3; cp. Zech. 4:10).

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." (II Chron. 16:9)

"His ears are open unto their prayers" - (*"The prayer of the wicked is an abomination to*

the Lord")
The Lord listens to the requests of the upright, but not to the disobedient (Ps. 66:18 - *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.")* (Is. 59:1-2)

The prerequisite for answered prayer is <u>obedience</u> (I Jn. 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.).*
Psalm 34:17 - *"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."*

This promise to answered prayer most definitely ties in with verse 7. Where God says that a husband who shows consideration for his wife will not have his prayers "hindered" (cut in on; obstructed from reaching Heaven).

But the face of the Lord is against him that doeth evil." - To have God for you is sure victory (Rom. 8:31). To have God against you is a losing battle.

Life is futile when the Lord is resisting every move you make, foiling your plans, frustrating your endeavors, thwarting your progress and success.

> ***"Do evil" -*** (present participle) the ones continually practicing an unrepentant, evil lifestyle.

II. God hears an <u>Obedient</u> Heart (Prov. 28:9; I Jn. 3:22)

Proverbs 28:9
He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

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.

Does God answer everyone's prayers? No.
The Bibe gives several conditions to receiving answers to prayer, such as. . .

"Whatsoever we ask" - This is a wide spectrum of answers to prayer. There are many things we can ask for and receive.

"Keep" - To be careful about; to guard so as to keep them from going unattended to. To be conscientious (not sloppy and careless) so as to obey.

"Obedience is the indispensable condition, not the meritorious cause of answered prayer" (Stott, p. 149).

The prayer of the wayward will not get answered.

Prov. 1:24-28 - Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;
25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:
26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;
27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.
28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me)

Seeking to <u>please</u> God will take you a step beyond strictly obeying Him (it is a fuller demonstration of love).

"A farmer's wife and her ten-year-old daughter were just finishing their breakfast when a phone call urgently requested the mother to come to a neighbor's home a short distance away because of an emergency. Before leaving, the mother kindly asked her daughter to wash the dishes and tidy the kitchen while she was gone. Prompted by her love, the daughter gladly consented. She washed and carefully replaced the dishes, cleared off the kitchen stove, and swept the floor. Since her mother was still not back, she went into her brother's room and made the bed and cleaned the room. Then she took a broom and carefully swept the living room floor and the front porch because she knew it would please her mother. Her love prompted her to go beyond that which had been commanded. So the believer often faces situations in his own life which may not be covered by a specific

commandment, but his love prompts him to act in ways he knows would be pleasing to the Lord" (Hiebert, p. 170-71).

III. God hears an <u>Earnest</u> Heart (Jer. 29:13; Mk. 9:29; Ex. Hezekiah's Prayer – Is. 38:5)

Jeremiah 29:13
And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Mark 9:29
And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Hezekiah's Prayer

Isaiah 38:5
Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

IV. God hears a <u>Believing</u> Heart (Mt. 21:22; Ja. 1:6-7; 5:15)

Matthew 21:22
And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

James 1:6-7
But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Ill. of a woman who prayed every day for the salvation of her husband. When asked "do you believe God will save Him?" She replied: "not really. You see, no one in his family is saved, and he is so set in his ways."

To not believe God is to <u>insult</u> Him. You are actually denying God's faithfulness and calling Him a liar.

"Let him ask in faith" - There is no acceptable prayer without faith!
Heb.11:6 "impossible to please God";
Mt.21:22 "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." cp.Mk.11:24.

"nothing wavering" = in no way doubting
"wavering" refers to a man with a divided mind. One who is torn in two directions; mental indecision; inner conflict; a desire to say yes & no at the same time.

When a doubter prays he is merely <u>going through the motions of prayer</u>. His words go no higher than the roof of his mouth.

The raging sea = pictures unrest. For example when the wind blows from <u>one</u> direction, the billowing waves move with it. When it blows in the <u>opposite</u> direction again the waves move with it.

v.7 - It is "faith that unlocks the divine storehouse, but unbelief bars its doors"

v.8 - "double minded" = Lit. "two souled" - He acts as if 2 distinct souls or personalities were in his body. Living 2 lives at once. Trying to go in 2 directions at once.

"unstable" = unsteady, wobbling like a drunkard.

James 5:15
And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

V. God hears a <u>Scripture-filled</u> Heart (Jn. 15:7; I Jn. 5:14-15)

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.

A Christian whose mind and soul is knit to Christ and whose heart and mind is filled with God's Word will be one who is on God's wavelength. You will think like Him; your heart beat will match His; you will walk in step with Him. Therefore, any and every request you make will be exactly what He wanted for you, and you will get answers to every prayer.

This principle of being close to the Lord and receiving what you ask for is also found in Psalm 37:4.

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

God answers the one who <u>abides</u> (remains) in right fellowship with Christ

Our relationship never changes, but our fellowship may.
Our union with Christ never changes, but our communion with Him may.

The one who pleases Him recieves answers to prayer:

Ps 66:18-20 -
If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

1 John 5:14-15
And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

God Answers the one who prays in accordance with <u>God's will</u>

Praying in Christ's name is praying in Christ's will.

John 14:13 - And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

What Happens When We Pray?

When we pray.....

1. God responds with incredible, astonishing might
(Jer. 33:3; cp. Acts 12:5-16)

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jer. 33:3)

2. Satan's forces are withdrawn from us and held in check
(Mt. 6:13; Eph. 6:10,12,18)

"...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from (the) evil (one)." (Mt. 6:13)

3. God's man has power & boldness in preaching the Word
(II Th. 3:1; cp. Eph. 6:19-20)

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." (II Thes. 3:1)

4. Fellow believers gain strength both Spiritually (Psalm 138:3) and Physically (Psalm 30:2,3) (Cp.Eph.3:14-19)

5. Our witness gains a Holy Spirit empowered boldness
(Acts 4:31)

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

6. God brings deliverance in times of trouble
(Psalm 34:6; 107:6; Jonah 2:1-2; Cp Acts 16:25-26)

"This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." (Psalm 34:6)

"Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses." (Psalm 107:6)

"Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice."

7. Fear and worry flee from tormenting our minds
(Psalm 34:4; Phil.4:6)

"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34:4)

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6)

8. Our faith in God & our love for God grows as we see Him answer prayer.
(Psalm 116:1)

"I love the LORD, because He hath heard my voice, and my supplications." (Psalm 116:1)

9. God gives us needed wisdom & understanding
(cp.I Kings 3:9-12)

10. The Lord sends out Gospel laborers into the "harvest fields"
(Luke 10:2)

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

11. The Lord applies a healing balm over a sick society
(II Chronicles 7:14)

"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." (II Chron. 7:14)

12. God's people gain peace and freedom from tyrannical, oppressive governmental leaders (Ezra 6:22; Prov.21:1; cp. I Tim 2:1-2)

"And (Israel) kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel." (Ezra 6:22)

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." (Prov. 21:1)

13. The blind eyes of unsaved men are opened to the knowledge of the Truth
(cp. I Timothy 2:3-4)