

# Prayer Is Predicated

Text: Isaiah 59:1-2

## INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a God who hears and responds to prayer!
2. However, His answer to one's prayer is often different than expected or desired.
3. Sometimes, God's answer to one's prayer is, "No" or "Wait."
4. It is helpful to understand the connection between God's providence and the answer to prayer.

## I. PRAYER IS PREDICATED ON FAITHFULNESS

- A. In order to enjoy the privilege of prayer, one must be a Christian.
- B. Yet, there are things that will hinder a Christian's prayers.
  1. Unforgiven sin (Isa. 59:1-2; 55:6-7; 58:6-9)
  2. Impure heart (Psalm 66:18; Prov. 28:9)
  3. Self-righteousness (Luke 18:9-14)
  4. Unforgiving attitude (Matt. 6:15)
  5. Lack of faith (James 1:5-8)
  6. Selfishness (James 4:3)
  7. Trouble in the home (1 Peter 3:7)
- C. We should seek the remedy for things that hinder our prayers.

## II. PRAYER IS PREDICATED ON FAITH

- A. James declared that a Christian's prayers must be offered with faith (1:6; 5:15-16).
- B. There are many valid reasons that one may have faith in God.
  1. The Creation Shows Evidence of God
    - a. The universe declares God (Psa. 19:1-3; Rom. 1:18-23).
    - b. God created the world (Gen. 1:1; Exo. 20:11; Ac. 17:24).
    - c. This is far different from the beliefs and theories of men.
  2. History Shows Evidence of God
    - a. The descendants of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:5, 13-14)
    - b. Jacob – Moses (Gen. 49:8-10; Exo. 19:1-6; 24:1-8)
    - c. Captivity and Return
    - d. The fullness of the times (Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:10)
  3. Prophecy Shows Evidence of God
    - a. Isaiah 41
    - b. Vs. 1-7 – *God's court case against the idols*
      - i. God prophesied of Cyrus over 100 years before his birth!
      - ii. 44:28; 45:1
      - iii. The idols and idolaters could do nothing of such power.
    - c. Vs. 8-20 – *God is living and active on behalf of His people*
    - d. Vs. 21-29 – *God challenges the idols to prove their power*
      - i. God asks them to present their case, to predict the future, or to do anything to demonstrate that they are real and living.
      - ii. But they were nothing and vanity; and those who chose them were an abomination.
- C. God alone hears and answers prayer!

## Exercises

### Prayer Is Partitioned

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:1. What are the meanings of the different words used for prayer in this verse? How do they differ from one another?
2. Read Luke 19:45-46. What does Jesus mean when He says, "My house is the house of prayer"?
3. Read Matthew 6:8 and 1 Peter 3:12. How do these verses make you feel when you make supplication to the Lord?
4. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. For whom should we make intercession? List others that the Bible teaches we should pray for (with references, if known).
5. When we pray for others, for what should we pray?
6. Read Luke 17:11-19. How does the Lord feel about those who are ungrateful and those who fail to express their thankfulness?