

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinhnam

Studies in Prayer No 2

14th November 2000

The Limitless Possibility of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6: 1-11.

Key Verse: *Jeremiah 33: 3. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."*

If we only come before God humbly and make known our requests known. See Psalm 81: 10 How often we ask the Lord for little, when He is inviting us to ask Him for so much! In prayer, as in most things, there is God's part and our part. There is the human and Divine part in prayer. God's response depends on our asking. Look up Matthew 18: 19 and James 4: 2.

Our Part in Prayer, The Asking:

Our text shows us the human side of prayer. Notice the three words "*Call unto Me*". They tell us three things about prayer: -

The Source of prayer. Where does prayer begin? Prayer begins with God. He takes the initiative, by inviting and encouraging prayer. the Holy Spirit also empowers our prayer. Look up Romans 8:26; This verse may be rendered *with sighs that cannot be expressed in words*". Then compare James 5: 16, which may be rendered, *"The Spirit inwrought prayer of a righteous man avails him much."* Think about that.

The Simplicity of prayer. Could anything be more simple than lifting

up our heart God in prayer. Look up Genesis 4:26; 2 Samuel 22:4; 1 Chronicles 4: 10; Job 12:4; Psalms 4:3; 50:15; 53:4; 91:15; 99:6; 102:2; Isaiah 55:6; and 2 Timothy 2:22.

The Scope of prayer. Who can pray? Anyone (Romans 10: 12-14), about anything (Mark 11:24), anywhere (Matthew 18:19-20), and at anytime (Psalm 55:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Gods Part in Prayer, The Answering: When we respond to God's invitation to "call," He always responds. Look again at our text:

The answer to prayer is sure. Look at the words. "*I will answer*" . . . We cannot pray in vain for here is God's promise. What a difference it would make if we always took God at His word and simply believe what He says! We should note that we don't always get what we expect, when and how we expect it.

How does God respond to our prayers. There are four ways.

The answer may be DIRECT. Very often when we pray the answer is so

accurate and appropriate we stand in awe of God's awareness.
Isaiah 65:24.

The answer may be DIFFERENT.

The answer does come, but it is very different from what we expected.
2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

The answer may be DELAYED.

How often our prayers seem unanswered! but God it is simply doing His things in His time. How often in the Gospels did Jesus make people wait before meeting their needs. Make a list then look up Revelation 6.9 and 8.3&4.

The answer may be DENIED.

Sometimes God says "No." 1 Kings 19:4&5. When this is the case, He makes this known as we continue in fellowship with Him.

It is a blessing that God does not always answer our prayers in the way *we* want, but whatever the form God's promise remains. "*Call unto Me, and I will answer . . .*" Notice these characteristics of God's answer to our prayers:

It is a Personal Answer, the answer I need. Notice the words, "*I . . . thee.*" The greatest answer to prayer is the revelation of the Lord Himself, not the

blessing that we want but an enrichment of our communion and fellowship with the God. Just as God's answer to Paul was a personal one so His answer to you and me is personal also.

It is a Perceptual Answer. Notice the words "*shew thee*". When we pray, God answers our prayer in such a way that we know that it is He who has done this thing. The events in our lives have the mark of God upon them. Compare Matthew 6: 6.

It is a Powerful Answer. The words, "*great and mighty,*" may be translated "*inaccessible things, hard things, fenced-in things*", things that we could not do. God has a way of doing mighty things in answer to the prayers of His people! Joshua 10: 12-14; 1 Samuel 1: 10-11, and 20; 1 Kings 17: 1, and James 5: 16-17; 2 Kings 4: 32-36; Daniel 2: 28-30; Acts 12: 5-18 and more. Be encouraged at what God can do.

It is a Providential Answer. Notice the words "*which thou knowest not.*" These words suggest that the answer is beyond our power even to anticipate. Look up Ephesians 3: 20. God always does more than we "ask or think," so what's holding you back.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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