

Lesson #11 Does God Hear Prayer?

Opening Shot:

We pray, and sometimes it feels like God is right there, answering our questions just on the other side of the question mark. But other times it feels like the heavens are made of brass and our prayers just keep bouncing off of them. Despite all of this, God desires for us to bring our concerns and our praises to Him in prayer. As Christians we are commanded to pray continually, and to give thanks in all circumstances.

Introduction to Biblical Truths:

Read all of **James 5:13-16**: *13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 16 The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) How can I know that God is listening and cares about what I'm praying about?
- 2.) Why doesn't He answer all of my prayers the way I want?
- 3.) Is anything too big or too small to pray about?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

- 1.) God "hears" all prayer. **Psalm 139:4** *Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.* **Psalm 65:2** *O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.* God cares about you and what you are praying about. **1 Peter 5:6-7** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*
- 2.) God does not answer every prayer the way we desire. Even Jesus prayed "not my will, but yours be done." Jesus knew that His prayers were being heard, but He submitted His will to His Father's. Read **Luke 22:39-42** *v.42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."*
- 3.) Nothing is too big or too small for us to pray about. We are encouraged to pray about everything that bothers us or concerns us. **Philippians 4:6-7** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and helps us to pray. **Romans 8:26-27** *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.* **Luke 11:1-13** *The Lord's Prayer.*

Parting Shot:

As Christians we are expected to pray for each other, and for anything about which we are anxious. God hears all prayer. Through his Holy Spirit, and the instruction and example of Jesus Christ, God the Father helps us to know how and when to pray.

