

SOME ENCOURAGING TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER

I. It's encouraging to me to know that all three members of the Godhead are involved in prayer, and all three of them do good things for Christians in prayer!

A. God, the Father is the one addressed in prayer and He wants to help His children by doing good things to them!

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name"-Matthew 6:9.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened.

For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"-Matthew 7:7-11.

"I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. Shew thy marvelous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from them that rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings"-Psalm17:6-8.

- "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears"-Psalm 18:6.
- "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.
- He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
- And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the lord"-Psalm 40:1-3.
- "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"-Psalm 66:19 & 20.

"And the publican standing afar off, would not so much as lift up his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted"-Luke 18:13 & 14.

"I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live"-Psalm 116:1 & 2.

- "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"
- -I Peter 5:6 & 7.
- B. The Holy Spirit of God intercedes on behalf of the Christian in prayer.
- "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God"-Romans 8:26 & 27.
- 1. This passage does not teach that the Spirit of God empowers the Christian to do anything, including miracles!

- 2. It does teach that the Spirit does something for the Christian-He intercedes on behalf of the Christian!
- 3. The "groanings" are the Christian's; not the Spirit's! See verses 22 & 23.
- 4. With the Spirit's aid in His intercession, the Christian's prayer goes to God as it should!
 - 5. Isn't this teaching encouraging?
- C. Jesus Christ intercedes on behalf of Christians too!

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"-Hebrews 4:15 & 16. See also Romans 4:25; I Timothy 2:5, & Hebrews 7:25.



II. CLOSE

IN VIEW OF ALL OF THESE ENCOURAGING TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER, **MAY CHRISTIANS NEVER CEASE THEIR HEARTFELT PRAYERS!!**

Luke 18:1-8.