

**‘Promise of answered prayers.’
(I John 5:14)**

Intro: We have been looking through the Scriptures and discovering various promise that God has made to us. Some promises are conditional and some unconditional and when it comes to His promised concerning prayer there is an additional caveat to getting one’s prayers answered know as God’s will. I have mentioned in a previous message that ‘where man rules, God over rules. Meaning, He is sovereign and grants answers as He sees best. But rest assured that God answers every prayer, but not every prayer request!

III. God has promised us _____ to our prayer – I John 5:14.

- A. As we look at this verse, there is a _____, which is - “according to His will”.
1. I know that when Peter was sinking in the Sea of Galilee that his earnest prayer was not a _____ prayer, but a prayer born out of an immediate need. (**Matt. 14:30**)
 2. So, we need to recognize that our prayers will have varying elements such as,
 - a. There are those which are _____ needs or emergencies.
 - b. There are those that are _____ of the heart.
 - c. There are those that are _____ in nature. (health, finances, family etc.)
 3. James in his epistle of James, writes in **chapter four** several reason why we don’t get answers to our prayers.
 - a. The point of **verses 1 – 3** goes to our _____ behind our prayer requests.
 - b. _____ or the _____ to have something that we want just because we desire it.
 - c. This would be the action of a _____ Christian or an immature Christian, and perhaps an unsaved person.
 4. However, James does write in chapter five about the _____ of a righteous man in **James 5:16b** – “**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**”
 - a. “**Righteous man**” - used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly _____ to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life.
 - b. “**Conformed**” – to _____ one’s self according to God’s will.
 - c. “**Availeth**” – to have power or force with one’s prayer.
 - d. The example given in James is Elias or Elijah in **verse 17 & 18**.
 - (1). **I Kings 17:1**; A drought begins.
 - (2). **I Kings 18:1** – a severe drought.

(3). **I Kings 18:41 – 45**, Rain is on its way. Prayer with a specific purpose.

B. So, what about those times when we are willing to diligently seek God's will in prayer, are we guaranteed He will answer? God will answer in one of four ways.

1. **Yes!** However, we need to be _____ how we pray concerning God's will because He may allow us to have our desire which may not be the best thing for us.

(Insistent)

2. **No!** Take for insistence the Apostle Paul's prayer in **II Corinthians 12:1 – 10** concerning his thorn in the flesh.

3. **Change**, the idea here is that we may as James put it, "_____" and in which God can change our heart to pray differently so that He can answer our prayer.

4. **Silence**, God can and does use silence to get our _____, perhaps we have unconfessed sin or other issues God wants us to deal with – **Isaiah 59:1 & 2.**

a. **I Peter 3:7**; marital conditions.

b. **Matthew 18:28 – 30**; a spirit of unforgiveness.

c. **Psalms 66:16 – 20**; Iniquity.

d. **Isaiah 40:31** – test of one's patience.

C. The Apostle Paul besought the Lord thrice for an answer concerning the thorn in his flesh. We don't know if God waited for the third request before He finally answered Him, no. The point being Paul asked until he got an _____ and the answer being it was not in God's will.

1. The Apostle Paul surrendered to God's will, not that Paul's prayer was selfish, but that God's purpose was best for him and others then and down through the centuries.

(II Corinthians 12:9 – 11)

2. When we surrender to God's will for our lives and as we grow spiritually, we find ourselves praying more fervently for His will rather than for our desire for how we think He should answer.

3. So, does God always answer our prayers? Yes!