



## ANSWERED PRAYER

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My husband, Wayne, and I were raised in church. We were always in church, and it is a heritage I treasure. Our church had a weekly prayer meeting that was dedicated to praying for the needs of its people. I assumed, in my ignorance about answered prayer, that you presented your need to God, hoping that He would help you. After all, maybe He would.

When I became a student of God's Word, it surprised me to learn that God was a benevolent Father who desired to meet the needs of His people. Jesus spoke of God's generosity when He said, "Ask, and it shall be given you."<sup>1</sup> Notice, He did NOT say it might happen, it could happen, or maybe it will happen. He said, "It WILL be given to you."

God's promise is definite, yet, often, this does not seem to be true. Sometimes, my childhood supposition appears accurate.

The answer to this perplexing problem is found in the first epistle of John. The apostle John penned these words by divine inspiration, "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we KNOW that we have the petitions that we have

asked of Him."<sup>2</sup> Here, we understand that prayer begins with the will of God. We can determine the will of God by reading the Scripture and certainly, as sons of God, the Holy Spirit will lead us to God's divine plan. We can know His will!

The apostle James confirms this glorious truth when he says that God will give us wisdom if we ask.<sup>3</sup> We do not have to pray with our fingers crossed hoping for the best. God will not say "no" to His Word. He will give wisdom liberally, in abundant measure, so that we can approach His throne in confidence.

**When we know the will of God, we can stand by faith without wavering.** Like Abraham we will be fully persuaded that God will fulfill His promise.<sup>4</sup> We will not stagger like a drunken man whose footsteps are hesitant and insecure. We will approach God's throne in complete dependence on Him who loves us and gave His Son for our redemption.

We can approach God our Father in confidence because we know His abiding presence. Wayne and I have been married 53 years, and I know him well. I know when I ask for something if he will be hesitant or disinterested. As I live in God's Word, worshipping Him, His abiding presence in my life assures me of His will. I could never ask Him to accommodate my desire if it did not agree with His divine plan because I know Him.

(Continued from "Glorious Hope")

In the gospel of John, Jesus said, "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it SHALL be done for you."<sup>5</sup> This wonderful verse assures us that we can have anything that is within the parameters of God's abiding presence and within the boundaries of His Word. It does NOT say we can have anything that we want. When we walk with our Lord and Savior – when we abide in Him – we will not ask for those things that are contrary to His Word.

We raised our children by three guidelines. We often told them if your desire is illegal, immoral, or really dumb, it is not our will. Because they abide with us, they understand this principle. They know how it applies to their specific desire so that they will not ask for those things that oppose our will.

Prayer is very similar. If we do not know the Father's will, our prayer can be misguided. It may not be immoral or illegal, but it can reflect our personal desire or supposed need without

knowledge of God's will and plan. The important question is, "What does God want? What is His plan?"

The answer to these questions can be determined by prayer, yet often, the answer has already been stated in God's Word. For instance, we know that God will supply all our need. The Word of God says HE WILL! Therefore, we do not need to pray, asking if He will help us. The better question is, "How can I accomplish God's will? What must I do to cooperate with His plan to meet all my need?"

The Bible says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."<sup>6</sup> Therefore, I can be certain that our great God will illuminate the correct path for me to take. He will lead me by His Spirit until I stand victoriously in His will. Today, boldly approach God's throne. He is a wonderful Father. He knows every hair on your head and wants to talk with you. He will make His will clear to you. Pray and Believe! You will receive!

<sup>1</sup>Mt 7:7 <sup>2</sup>Jn 5:24-15, NKJV, Author's emphasis <sup>3</sup>Jas 1:5 <sup>4</sup>Rm 4:21 <sup>5</sup>Jn 15:7 NKJV, Author's emphasis <sup>6</sup>Ps 37:23



### Peace

My peace I give unto you. (Jn 14:27)  
For he is our peace. (Eph 2:14)

## GOD'S WILL FOR HIS PEOPLE

### God's Presence

For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Heb 13:5)  
Lo, I am with you always. (Mt 28:20)

### Provision

My God shall supply all your need. (Php 4:19)  
Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness. (2Co 9:11)

### Leadership

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Rm 8:14)  
He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (Jn 10:3)

### Rightstanding With God

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2Co 5:21)  
With the heart man believeth unto righteousness. (Rm 10:10)

### Health

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health. (3Jn 1:2)  
By whose stripes ye were healed. (1Pe 2:24)

### Victory

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (Rm 8:37)  
Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph. (2Co 2:14)

