

2. ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

John 16:24

New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

What is prayer?

In whose name should we pray?

- We should pray in the Name of Jesus
 - In His authority
 - On His merit – His finished work on Calvary

What results from prayer?

- God answers prayer. Our joy is complete / fulfilled

“UNTIL NOW YOU HAVE NOT ASKED FOR ANYTHING IN MY NAME?”

1. *What does Jesus teach about prayer in Matthew 7:7 – 8?*

- Jesus told us to ask for what we need; to search; to knock
- When we ask, we will receive

2. *What are some important conditions for answered prayer?*

- John 15:7 - Abide / remain in Christ

1 John 5:14 – 15 - What we ask for has to be in accordance with His will

- We know that what we have received is from Him

“ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE”

3. *What is characteristic of God’s answers to prayer?*

- *Jeremiah 33:3* - God answers and will tell great and unsearchable things you did not know
- *Ephesians 3:20* - God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think

4. *Read Matthew 7:9 – 11. What kind of gifts does God give His children?*

- God gives His children good gifts; with these gifts we are to carry out His purpose

How do you think God would respond to a request for something He knew would be bad for you?

What do you think God would do if He knew the answer would be better for you at another time?

5. *Read Philippians 4:6 – 7. What is the wrong reaction to have toward difficult circumstances?*

- The wrong reaction is to worry or to be anxious

What is the right response?

- The right response is to make your request known to God, always giving thanks to Him

What is the result of this right response?

- God's peace will guard your hearts and minds

"YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE"

6. *From Philippians 4:7, what results from the peace that comes through prayer?*

- REST! Comes from God's Word and prayer

7. *Read Luke 1:13 – 14. What resulted when Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed for a son?*

- God answered their prayer. He did not answer it when they asked at first, but He answered at a time when His Name would be glorified
- In addition, God gave them a son, John, who would be a prophet for Jesus

8. *What are some hindrances to answered prayer?*

- James 4:3 - We cannot pray with wrong motives and / or evil intentions
- Psalm 66:18 - We cannot pray with unconfessed sin our heart

FOUR IMPORTANT AREAS OF PRAYER

- **ADORATION** - Reflecting on God Himself. Praise Him for His love, His power and majesty, and His wonderful gift of Christ
- **CONFESSION** - Admitting your sins to God. Be honest and humble. Remember, He knows you and loves you still
- **THANKSGIVING** - telling God how grateful you are for everything He has given - - even the unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you see His purposes
- **SUPPLICATION** - making specific requests, both for others and for yourself

The first letters of these four words form the word "ACTS". Use this as a mental guide for a balanced prayer life.