

TUESDAY AUGUST 17

ANSWERED PRAYER

Psalm 138:3

Prayer is a dialogue between us and our Creator God. Often we seem to do most of the talking, but we are wise if we take the time to sit and listen to what is on His heart as well.

David (in Psalm 138:3) speaks of how he was strengthened when God answered his prayer. Answers to our requests and petitions do increase our faith and is most definitely a reason to give praise. Answers may not come as quick as we would like, but God's timing is always on time. What may seem to be delays may be for the purpose of developing tenacity and perseverance within us in regards to our prayer life.

When we make our requests and petitions to God, it must be with a willingness to receive the answer according to God's will in the matter...whether it is a yes or no or with necessary adjustments that God in His wisdom sees as necessary. A submitted heart on our part is pleasing to Him...not my will but Yours be done, Father.

There can be times when God refuses to answer a prayer and there are reasons for that. Let's take a look at a few of the reasons as we find in God's Word.

- 1. "If I regard iniquity (sin) in my heart, the Lord will not hear." (Psalm 66:18 NKJV)**
- 2. If we are asking with the wrong motives (selfishness being one), God will not answer those requests. (James 4:3) Covetousness could be another factor which enters into the selfish requests (verse 2). These wrong motives (which again are sins) must be removed so that we have a purity of heart.**
- 3. Doubt is a very big hindrance to our prayer life (James 1:5-7). No matter how God chooses to answer our requests, we must have that firm confidence in knowing Who God is and what He is fully capable of doing.**
- 4. Pride is another hindrance to receiving an answer (Luke 18: 11, 12, 14). When Jesus compared the Pharisee and tax collector's prayers, His comment was "...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Verse 14 NKJV)**

God's heart is to bless the one who is upright and sincere for those individuals will only ask according to His will or submit their petitions to God's will. "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (1 John 3:22 NJKV). May you too experience the strengthening that can come from seeing answers to your prayers.