

Deeper Life Notes

Assurance of Answered Prayer – John 16:23-24

Pastor Dan Osborn, February 28, 2016



Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

Have you ever seen God respond specifically to your prayer in a supernatural way? If so, what was your prayer? How did God respond? What did that feel like? Do my beliefs and behaviors about prayer match up?

Sing or Pray

Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire, James Montgomery 1771-1854

Discuss

"The hard truth is that most Christians don't pray very much. They pray at meals... They whisper prayers before tough meetings. They say something brief as they crawl into bed. But very few set aside set times to pray alone — and fewer still think it is worth it to meet with others to pray. And we wonder why our faith is weak. And our hope is feeble. And our passion for Christ is small." John Piper

Bottom Line

To show through God's word the confidence we have to approach our heavenly father through Jesus and motivate us to actually pray for the joy that God has assured us.

Lessons on Prayer in John's Gospel & Epistles

Read

John 14:13–14

- Teaches that prayer is the pursuit of God's glory. (Study John 4:9-10)
Question: Do our prayers glorify God?

Read

John 15:7–8, 16

- Teaches that we glorify God by bearing fruit

Read

John 16:23–24

- Teaches that prayer is the pursuit of our joy

Application

In regards to your prayer life what has brought you joy this week? This month? Are you bubbling over with rejoicing because the Father through Jesus has answered for His glory and for our joy?

- Teaches "Assurance of Answered Prayer"
 - Ask the father (Jesus is going, has gone and now prayer is directed to the father but through Christ)

Read

Hebrews 4:14-16

Notice What is the context? What does it teach us about Jesus? What do we learn about prayer?

Discuss

“A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian is a fruitless Christian.”

Identify what keeps you from praying or having your prayers heard?

Question What keeps us from prayer? Why is prayer such a struggle?

1. Wrong motives: James 4:2-3
2. Sin in our life: Isaiah 59:1-2
3. Idolatry: Ezekiel 14:1-3
4. Unforgiveness: Mark 11:25
5. Stinginess: Proverbs 21:13
6. Dishonor in marriage: 1 Peter 3:7

Read

John 16:23–24

- Teaches that prayer is the pursuit of our joy.
- Teaches assurance of answered prayer.
 - Ask the Father
 - In the name of Jesus *“To pray in the name of the Lord Jesus is to ask, or to claim, the things which the blood of Jesus has secured.”* Peter M. Lord
 - You will receive – this is the promise of God!

Consider these questions from Francis Chan: What is the significance of praying in Jesus’ name? *“We have to check ourselves, and go, ‘Am I concerned about the things of God?’ Because so often when we pray, it’s just about ourselves.”* Do you believe you have a mission in this life? What is it? Does it line up with Jesus’ mission? Whose mission do your prayers reflect?

Application

Take God at his word. Persevere (Luke 18), follow the pattern (Matthew 7)

Read

1 John 5:14-15

Discuss: *“Therefore, we can do nothing greater than pray until we have prayer and we can do nothing greater than pray after we have prayed.”*

Application

1. Let prayer be your first choice, not your last (Proverbs 3:6; 2 Chronicles 7:14; 1 Samuel 12:23; Luke 18)
2. Let your gaze be on God, your glance on your request (Psalm 27:11; Mark 10:27)
3. Pray more from conviction than from crisis
4. Praying in the Spirit and by the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Jude 20)
5. Let your prayer be filed with praise
6. Pray retail not wholesale