

We Can Be Confident That God Answers Prayer  
(1 John 5:14-15)

Introduction:

1. In his letter John mentioned 3 areas in which God's people can have confidence.
  - a. We can have confidence when the Lord appears (2:28).
  - b. We can have confidence toward God (3:21).
  - c. We can have confidence that God answers prayer (5:14-15).
2. In our lesson we are examining passages that relate to the last area -- "we can be confident that God answers prayer."

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST EXAMINE SEVERAL GENERAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO PRAYER
  - A. Prayer is basically defined as "talking to God."
  - B. (1 Timothy 2:1) Various ways of talking to God include *"supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks."*
  - C. God's people are repeatedly instructed to pray.
    1. Ephesians 6:18
    2. Philippians 4:6
    3. Colossians 4:2
    4. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- II. THE BIBLE STATES MANY TIMES THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER
  - A. See:
    1. Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22
    2. James 5:16b.
  - B. We must keep in mind that God's response to prayer:
    1. may be positive (James 5:17-18)
    2. may be negative (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44)
    3. may be different than requested (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).
- III. THE BIBLE REVEALS THE CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTABLE PRAYER
  - A. We must pray "sincerely" (Matthew 6:5-6, 7-8).
  - B. We must pray "in faith" (Matthew 21:22).
  - C. We must pray "persistently" (Luke 18:1-8).
  - D. We must pray "in humility" (Luke 18:9-14).
  - E. We must pray "in the name of Christ" (John 16:23).
  - F. We must pray "with proper motives" (James 4:3).
  - G. We must pray "fervently" (James 5:16b).
  - H. We must pray "with our lives in good standing with God" (1 Peter 3:12).
  - I. We must pray "while doing the Lord's will" (1 John 3:22).
  - J. We must pray "according to God's will" (1 John 5:14-15).

Conclusion:

1. We can certainly be confident that God answers prayer.
2. Let us:
  - a. remember that God answers prayer in various ways
  - b. meet the conditions for our prayers to be acceptable to God.
3. Let us be encouraged by the examples set by Bible characters who were devoted to prayer, including:
  - a. Jesus
  - b. Daniel
  - c. Nehemiah
  - d. the apostles.