

The Promises of God - Lesson 8

Introduction:

1. In our study of God's promises we have shown from the Scriptures that:
 - a. they are "*exceeding great and precious*" (2 Peter 1:4a)
 - b. they are "trustworthy" -- God "*is not slack concerning His promise*" (2 Peter 3:9)
 - c. they are "effective" -- by them we can be "*partakers of the divine nature*" (2 Peter 1:4b)
 - d. some of them are "conditional."
2. In this lesson we are examining passages that relate to "God's promise to answer prayer."
3. Let us first consider some . . .

Discussion:

- I. 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 (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- II. GOD'S PROMISE TO ANSWER PRAYER IS DECLARED IN MANY PASSAGES
 - A. See Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22; 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. 10 CONDITIONS OF 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).