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Why Aren't Prayers Answered?

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WHY AREN'T PRAYERS ANSWERED?
Ps. 51:7-13

I. Does any one have a problem in praying?
   A. Perhaps our only one is that we don't pray enough.
   B. Truly we believe in prayer.
      1. Let me have a problem, an uncertain situation, a danger--I pray.
   C. The Bible records the prayers of many folk.
      1. Hezekiah and sickness.
         Isa. 38:1-5 - Prayer added 15 yrs.
      2. David in his sin.
         Ps. 51:9-10 - Create in me a clean heart
      3. Solomon overwhelmed at thought of ruling.
         1 Kings 3:9 - Deserve good or bad
      4. Jesus for others
         John 17
      a. He even urges our praying.
         Luke 18:1 - Do we for all men
         Matt. 7:7 - Kings (Rom 3:1) Ask, it shall be
         (1) Original means to "keep on asking etc"

II. But we do have a prayer problem--its what we call unanswered prayer.
   (Perhaps its better described as when God says no).
   A. Let me give you some reasons prayers aren't answered.
      1. Some have no claim on God.
         a. Do you help every beggar. One man
came to West End and wanted help for his girl friend.

b. Sin can close God's ears to us. Micah 3:4

2. Our prayers may be contrary to his will.
   a. Jesus was mindful of this in Gethsamene
   b. Answers aren't by magic but by will and power of God.

3. What you ask for may not be best.
   a. Money could bring ruin.
   b. Power—wouldn't know how to use it.
   c. Fame—hearts in pride would turn from God.

4. Maybe God isn't yet ready for you to have it.
   a. Give a 5 year old a gun?

5. Are you demanding?
   a. Deference is persistence and in bullying.

   Matt. 11:12

6. Is our faith too small?
   Matt. 21:22

   III. One other question.
   A. Are our unanswered prayers about things of material or spiritual nature?

1. God declines things and give fellowship, forgiveness, cleansing, illumination, guidance, solution.

West End - 10/18/64
Mistaken Identity

The choral director was arranging the chorus on stage at a rehearsal for an inspirational Girl Scout ceremony. She turned to a youngster and asked, "Are you a soprano or an alto?"

"Neither," replied the girl quickly, "I'm a Brownie!"

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
THE IDEAL TIME  My watch was running slowly. I took it to a watchmaker. “It doesn’t keep time,” I told the man behind the counter.

He put his magnifying glass to his eye, opened the back of the case, and peered intently at the works for a moment. “When do you wind your watch?” he asked.

“Just before I go to bed.”

“You should wind it the first thing in the morning because every step you take during the day will jar that delicate mechanism. You ought to begin the day on a strong spring.”

My watchmaker was talking about watches, but he might as well have been speaking of the human spirit. I have found that by beginning each day with prayer I strengthen my “spring” and am better prepared for the “jars” that I encounter. “Begin the day on a strong spring” may, with perfect appropriateness, be applied to a person’s prayer life.

William S. Abernethy in War Cry
Along the Way

Among men and women aged 60 and over who will retire this year, there are 126,000 school teachers, 36,000 lawyers, 3,000 dieticians and nutritionists, 18,000 college faculty members, 12,000 social welfare and recreation workers, 11,000 librarians, 32,000 physicians, and 43,000 professional nurses. These Americans are a tremendous force of accumulated wisdom, as Ruth Griggs, writing in *The Gospel Messenger*, reminds us. Failure to utilize their experience, knowledge, and abilities ignores the vital contribution that our senior citizens have traditionally made in American life.

In Osaka, Japan, an eighty-year-old piece of paper was found which listed what were once claimed to be the medical properties of coffee: "Coffee is a medical drink and when one drinks it, the heat in the stomach increases. It is good for tuberculosis, rheumatism, beriberi, toothache... in fact, coffee will heal 10,000 diseases. It must not, however, be drunk when it is raining heavily, or in time of thunder and lightning."

At the New York 1964-1965 World's Fair more than seven acres are assigned for major religious exhibits. These, in the words of Robert Moses, the Fair's president, "feature American idealism and enterprise, enhance our prestige here and abroad and help us lift up the banner..."
ners of universal brotherhood and world peace.” The World’s Fair offers these religious exhibitors the unique opportunity of exposing more than 70 million people, from all areas of the world, to the message of religion. The Fair’s theme is “Peace through Understanding.”

A professor at the New York State College of Agriculture interviewed some 500 families in that state some time ago. Among other conclusions, as reported in the New York Times, was this one: “Most people would like to see their communities produce citizens who are honest. But more than half of those interviewed would not consider it very serious for a daughter to cheat in an examination, or for a son to skip school to go to a movie and then tell the teacher he was ill.”

When the American Cancer Society presented its fourth and final study of 187,782 cases, showing deaths from lung cancer are 100 per cent higher among men who smoke cigarettes than among men who do not smoke, many doctors in attendance at the meeting quit smoking, according to Newsweek. Those who quit smoking lowered the risk of premature death, said the study.

On his recent visit in Washington, D. C., Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie visited the Lincoln Memorial and placed a 50-pound solid silver laurel wreath at the foot of the statue. He said that Lincoln is “a symbol to all men who cherish freedom and equality as the most precious of God’s gifts.” The wreath will remain permanently at one of the Lincoln shrines.