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3 Prayer Problems Unanswered Prayers, Suffering in Spite of Prayers, Wrong Guy Benefited By Prayers

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3 PRAYER PROBLEMS: UNANSWERED PRAYERS, SUFFERING IN SPITE OF PRAYERS, WRONG GUY BENEFITED BY PRAYERS

(James 1:1-8)

I. Do you know of any good thing but what has its working problems?

- A. My lawn mower.
- B. My car.
- C. My helpmate.
- D. Surely my prayers.

II. Against prayer, I hear said

A. "God didn't answer me."

1. Ann Richmond Sewell prayed God would turn her dolls into real people - disappointed - then He let her grow up & have real children. She said we barely had enuf to eat as it was - what if those dolls had become kids!

B. "But I prayed for him not to have to go thru this!"

1. Why do righteous suffer

C. "He gets along a lot better than I do & doesn't even pray!"

1. Suppose he works at it?

2. Do you really pray?

(a) Fosdick quote. #1

D. Let's look at these problems.

III. God doesn't answer me.

who's God - Pleasure or Jehovah. Pleasure drives 2.
me to shameful deeds
A. Bible gives many reasons for God's no,
which I insist is an answer. *Desire becomes deed. No prayer when 2nd we say is doing will.*

1. You ask amiss. *13*
James 4:3 "Ye ask & receive not, because ye do not ask in faith."

2. You are disobedient.
Deut. 1:45 "And ye returned & wept *d wept B-4 the*

3. You are half hearted *hard, but not harken*
Jer. 29:13 "And ye shall seek me *nor give ear*
James 1:6-8 "But let him ask in faith, *when ye shall search & see your heart.*

4. You sin *uses word "two minds" - this man 2 walking Civil war.*
Ps. 66:18 "If I regard iniquity

(a) Apollo story # 2

5. Not w/in the will of God
Lu. 22:42 "Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done."

(a) Story of sorting potatoes # 3

6. Not humble *called by my name, shall humble themselves & pray & seek my face.*
2 Chron. 7:14 "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves & pray & seek my face, I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their iniquity, and will cleanse their iniquity."

Lu. 18:11 "I thank thee that I am not as other Pharisees."

(a) Beethoven story # 4

7. You are not fully committed *not*
I Kings 18:21 "And the people answered him, saying, 'We will not.'" *not*

(a) In Green Pastures. "I ain't much but I've all I got."

(b) Wm. Stidger story. # 5

B. "But I prayed not to have to go thru this"
Is God fair - asked Chas. Allen.

Ps. 19:9 "The judgments of the Lord are true

& Righteous 2d together

1. When God made man free, He took a dangerous chance.
 - (a) Little boy pushed playmate in ditch. Why? "Mother, Satan did tell me to push him in ditch, hit him c rock but spitting on him was my own idea."
 - (b) Wasn't it all the little boys? Gal. 6:7 "Whatsoever a man soweth
2. God wants men, not puppets so He must allow something to happen He doesn't want.
3. Do we measure justice by the wrong standard? House, car, coat, honor, bank, etc.

C. He gets along better than I do & he doesn't even pray!

1. Story on stewardship. *H 6 Dead to land*
2. Don't go thru life parking on somebody else's nickel.

3. Is there a judgment - will you lose your reward.
4. Must every account be settled here?

West End 6-14-70

Fosdick aptly suggests that "praying (is) a lesson to be learned by assiduous practice....We would not expect to take a try at a violin once in a while and yet make much of it. But see how we treat this finer instrument of prayer!

PERSON TO PERSON, Bobbie Lee Holley
Pg. 130 "Friendship with God"

In the European galleries there is a famous statue of Apollo. He is an example of physical perfection. It's interesting to watch the crowds pass by the statue. When a person sees it, he invariably begins to straighten up. He isn't conscious of what he's doing but seeing the statue makes him want to be like it.

#2

There's a story about an old man who hired out to work for a farmer. The first day he cut wood and worked very hard. The second day he dug weeds, and the hot sun didn't stop him. The third day it was raining so the farmer gave him an easy job of sorting potatoes in the barn. It was an easy job--put the good ones in one pile and the rotten in another. At noon the man quit--the farmer was amazed and asked why. "I don't mind the work", said the man, "but when I started sorting potatoes I couldn't stand to make all those decisions."

(over)

There's a story of the young college girl who visited the home of Beethoven. She asked permission to play a few bars on the great master's piano. Then she said, "I suppose all the great artists have played this piano during their visits here?" The guard replied, "No, Paderewski was here two years ago and someone asked him to play. But he declined saying he was not worthy to touch the piano. All great people are humble.

#4

William Stidger told the story of a rugged mountaineer from Tennessee. The government was taking over his home. He refused to move out of his house to make room for the TVA lake. He was told they would build him another not far away that was much nicer he still refused. In probing as to why, he finally explained that his grandfather started a fire on the hearth in the old cabin and instructed his son to keep a fire going as a sacred family symbol. His father kept it going before he died and transmitted the heritage to his son. The man said, "I must keep alive the fires of my fathers", so the engineers carefully gathered up the fire from the old hearth and carried it still burning to the new home and then the man was satisfied to move.

A5

This story on stewardship--a preacher one time said everything belonged to God and only man is a ^{Ab} tenant here. That same day the farmer took him home with him to dinner--the farmer showed him his fields and said, "I have a deed to that land--does it belong to me?" The preacher wisely answered, "Ask me a hundred years from now?"

When through fiery trials by a pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; - I only design
Thy dross to consume, thy gold to refine.