

Ninth Meeting

Prayer is a "Spiritual Science"

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11:5-13, 18:1-8

Our all-powerful God listen and answers our prayers. Because we have sin, God cannot listen to our prayers. But if we pray in Jesus' name, who has no sins, God does listen to and answer our prayers (Jn 16:24).

1. Why are there answers to the prayers of unbelievers?

1) All religions pray and have formal (liturgical) prayers.

- (1) Why are there answers to prayers offered to beasts?**
- (2) Why are there answers to prayers offered to rocks or trees? (stars)**
- (3) Why are there answers to prayers offered to papers, drawings, or photographs?**
- (4) Why are there answers to prayers offered to boxes, hand-make idols, or god-dwelling dishes?**
- (5) Why do leaders of cults and mystical religions have supernatural powers?**

The answer is found in 1 Corinthians 10:20 and Matthew 24:11.

2) Whenever the unbeliever prays, his prayers are answered. Even though he may get his answer (good or bad), he will then fail.

3) When the children of God pray, God answers in three ways:

- (1) In most cases, God answers the prayer (yes).**
- (2) If the prayer requests are unnecessary or harmful, then God does not answer the prayer. That is the answer (no).**
- (3) Sometimes God answers our prayers with something even better than what we had asked for. This is because God's desire is to bless His people.**

2. The qualifications for answered prayer.

- 1) Jn 1:12 must be a child of God**
- 2) Jn 16:24 pray in Jesus' name**
- 3) Ps 66:18 as we repent of our sins**
- 4) Lk 11:5-12 pray in faith**
- 5) Lk 18:1-8 pray persistently, to the end**
- 6) Php 4:6-7 answers begin with mind, heart, and wisdom**

3. The Children of God should keep in mind some things when they pray.

- 1) Not "my will be done" but "Your perfect will be done."**
- 2) Not "by my plan" but "by Your great plan."**
- 3) Not "for my circumstance" but "for Your hidden plan."**
- 4) Not with a vengeance, but with a heart of forgiveness.**
- 5) With an attitude of submission go God's will.**

4. Prayer is a "spiritual science."

- 1) When we pray, the Holy Spirit works (Lk 11:13, Mt 12:28).**
- 2) When the Holy Spirit works, evil spirits are bound (Mt 12:28-29).**
- 3) When the Holy Spirit works, powerful angels of God are mobilized to do God's work.**
 - (1) Heb 1:14**
 - (2) Rev 8:3-5**
 - (3) Dan 10:10-20**
- 4) Once this happens, our situations and our lives begin to change (Est 4:14).**
- 5) God sends people who are answers to prayer (Acts 10:1-9).**
 - (1) Ge 18:2-15 (Abraham)**
 - (2) 1 Kgs 19:5-7 (Elijah)**
 - (3) 2 Kgs 6:13-17 (Elisha)**
 - (4) 2 Kgs 20:1-10 (Hezekiah)**
 - (5) Acts 1:10-11**
 - (6) Acts 5:19-20; 10:1-4; 12:1-10**
 - (7) Rev 1:1-20**