

God's Grace and the Assurance of Prayer

The Christian is to live every day...

...knowing he has eternal life.

1 John 5:13 (NKJV) ¹³These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life,[£] and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

2 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV) ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

...with joy and peace and power.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NKJV) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

...coming boldly before God's throne of grace.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Our Assurance in Prayer

Jesus taught His disciples to believe that they would receive whatever they prayed for. (*Did they really receive what they prayed for?*)

Mark 11:20-24 (NKJV) ²⁰Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." ²²So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. ²³For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*."

The apostle John taught us to know that we have the petitions we have asked of Him. (*Do we really receive the petitions we ask of Him?*)

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

The Bible's answer is extremely important for the child of God to consider.

“And if we know that He hears us”

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46 (NKJV) ³⁶Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” ³⁷And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. ³⁸Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” ³⁹He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.” ⁴⁰Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.” ⁴²Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, [£]if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” ⁴³And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

Hebrews 5:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

“Your will be done”

Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

“But now you boast in your arrogance”

James 4:13-17 (NKJV) ¹³Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow [£]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

Does God respond to prayer?

Moses prayed for Israel at the golden calf incident.

Exodus 32:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

Exodus 32:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: “Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”[£]
¹⁴So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Hezekiah prayed for a longer life.

2 Kings 20:1-6 (NKJV) ¹In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’” ²Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, ³“Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what was good* in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. ⁴And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁵“Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. ⁶And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.’”

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours”

James 5:16-18 (NKJV) ^{16£}Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

1 Kings 17:20-24 (NKJV) ²⁰Then he cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?” ²¹And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.” ²²Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives!” ²⁴Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you *are* a man of God, *and* that the word of the Lord in your mouth *is* the truth.”

“when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith?”

Luke 18:1-8 (NKJV) ¹Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ²saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ ⁴And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’” ⁶Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

WARNING!!

Proverbs 28:9 (NKJV) ⁹ One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *is* an abomination.

Proverbs 1:28-32 (NKJV) ²⁸ “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, ³⁰They would have none of my counsel *and* despised my every rebuke. ³¹Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³²For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;