

A DISCUSSION ABOUT PRAYER.....

A. Our prayers might not be answered for the following reasons:

- Bad attitude
- Impure thoughts
- A sinful heart
- Personal interest
- You don't ask for forgiveness
- You hate somebody / neighbor
- Lack of faith

B. God does answer our prayers but we don't recognize his answer and his plans for us

A letter from unknown Confederate Soldier.....

*I asked God for strength that I might achieve.
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked God for health that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy.
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have praise of men.
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy in life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for-
but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.
Remember that God always answers sincere prayer.*

C. Remember, God always answers our sincere prayer:

- If our desire will harm us (our soul), God will not permit what we ask for
- Sometimes, we just need to use the gift that He has already given us
- (example: a student begging for an "A" mark but failed to study....)

D. God help those who help themselves. Prayer without ACTION is dead!

E. Scriptures from Luke Chapter 11: verses 11 – 13.

But God will always give his superabundant love to those who pray. Recall Jesus' own promise: What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked,

know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

F. God will give everything we want and everything we need because God listens to the heart not to the lips. (a prayer = 99% listening + 1% words). God knows what we need.

G. If God seems to be saying NO to some of our prayers, it is because he is saying YES to the deepest prayer of our heart

H. There are 3 answers to our prayers:

1. Yes
2. No
3. Wait a while

I. Reflection:

- Am I sincere every time I called GOD for help or I called GOD just to satisfy my own wants.....and not His'
- Do I talk a lot when I pray or did I give Jesus a chance to speak in my heart? Did I listen to Him?
- Do I carry in my heart an evil desire that separate me from Jesus?

- **Lord Jesus, bring me close to you. You know already what I need. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.**