



# Does God Answer Prayer?

**Do you believe God answers prayers?**

**What about the skeptic?**

**How do we prove God answers prayers?**

# Answering The Skeptics

- **The Little Girl in The Wagon**
- **Aunt Ruth Hart**
- **Does God answer prayer?**
  - **Skeptic's arguments**
    - Prayer non-effective, just a natural occurrence
    - Cause and effect was eventually diagnosed
    - Pure luck, it just happened the way it did
      - The Wagon would have stopped eventually
      - Aunt Ruth got lucky, just too stubborn to die
  - **Christian's arguments**
    - I know God answers prayer, I have faith.
    - I know God answers prayer, the Bible says so.

# Jesus Believed in Prayer

- **Mark 1:35**, *“a great while before day, he rose up and went out, and departed into a desert place, and there prayed.”*
  - Next day after healing many
- **Mark 6:46**, *“he departed into the mountain to pray.” (evening)*
  - Disciples cross the sea alone
- **Luke 6:12**, *“he went into the mountain to pray; and continued all night in prayer.”*
  - Next day chose his disciples



# Jesus Believed in Prayer

- **Luke 9:28**, *“he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up into the mountain to pray.”*
- **Transfiguration**, God speaks *“**This my beloved Son, hear him.**”* (Luke 9:35)
- **John 17**, Jesus prayed for self and others
- **Matthew 26:36-46**, Jesus prayed at Gethsemane



**No Doubt, Jesus Believed In Prayer**

# His Disciples Believed in Prayer

- **Prayed After His ascension in Jerusalem**
  - **Acts 1:14**, *“These all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”*
- **Prayed before selecting another apostle**
  - **Acts 1:24**, *“They prayed and said, Thou, Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show of these two the one that thou hast chosen.”*
- **Prayed after church established**
  - **Acts 2:42**, *“They continued steadfastly in the apostle’s teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

# His Disciples Believed in Prayer

- **Prayed when Grecian Jews complained**
  - **Acts 6:4**, *“But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.”*
- **Prayed for Peter while he was in prison**
  - **Acts 12:5**, *“prayer was made earnestly of the church unto God for him.”*
- **Prayed for Paul & Barnabas at Antioch**
  - **Acts 13:3**, *“when they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”*
- **Prayed with elders at Ephesus**
  - **Acts 20:36**, *“when he had thus spoken he kneeled down and prayed with them all.”*

# Many Other Teachings on Prayer

- **Romans 1:9**, To the Romans, *“For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of his Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you, always in my prayers.”*
- **1 Corinthians 14:5**, To the Corinthians, *“I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also.”*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25**, To Thessalonians, *“Pray without ceasing (live continually in an attitude of prayer), Brethren, pray for us.”*
- **James 5:13-18**, Pleads for us to pray



# Answering the Skeptics

- **Does God answer prayer?**
  - Inconclusive, when answered by man
  - Confirmed, when answered by God
    - Jesus confirmed
    - Apostles and disciples confirmed
    - God's inspired word confirmed
- **Does God answer prayers?**
  - Without a Doubt.... **YES HE DOES!**
    - *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of the things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1)*
    - *“The effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:17)*



# WHEN DO I PRAY?

**Get down on your knees and pray...**

- ...When you need help.**
- ...When you are in pain. (emotional/physical)**
- ...When you need strength.**
- ...When you need to be humbled.**
- ...When you need to be lifted.**
- ...When you are thankful.**
- ...When something is going to happen.**
- ...When something has happened.**
- ...When you face a problem, big or small.**
- ...When you have SINNED, or tempted to SIN.**

# We Are Commanded to Pray !

- **Matthew 7:7-8**, *“for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”*
- **John 15:7**, *“If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will and it shall be done unto you.”*
- **Philippians 4:6**, *“In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which passeth understanding shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”*



# Where Is Your Faith?

- Did the wagon stop because of prayer?
- Did Aunt Ruth's health improve because of prayer?

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- I don't know, but remember...
  - Jesus believed in prayer
  - The apostles/disciples believed in prayer
  - God's words instructs us to believe in prayer

**Where is Our Faith?**

# Conclusion of the Matter

## Three conditions for acceptable prayer

- Pray as a Christian
  - **John 15:7**, *“If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will and it shall be done unto you.”* (1 John 3:22-24)
- Pray a believing prayer
  - **Matthew 21:22**, *“All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”*
- Pray according to God’s will
  - **Matthew 26:39**, *“Not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*

