

What has Prayer done?

How much wiser? Jas 1:3-5

How many safe journeys?

Successful operations?

Faithful and just to forgive?

Peace passing understanding?

Where does faith end...

... and presumption begin?



Do We Have Boldness/Confidence?

- Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1Jn 5:14-15
- **Free & fearless confidence; cheerful courage; assurance; Freedom**
- There is an entire realm and domain where this is true and another realm and domain where it is never true.

Look Closer at the Passage

- *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1Jn 5:14-15*
- What is this passage saying?
- ***if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us***
- Before we know He hears us we must ask according to His will.
- How do we know if it is God's will?

According to His Will

We Only know His will if He reveals it.

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Deut 29:29

If we are asking for things not revealed in His will, we ask differently.

If we don't know: Your Will Be Done

- *Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven*
- When Jesus knew it was not God's Will He prayed accordingly.
- *O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will. Mt 26:39*
- If we don't know the future and we don't know God's will:
- *Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." Jas 4:15-16*

According to His Will

When we pray for things He has asked us to pray and He has promised to give we **KNOW** we have petitions

*Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And **if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him***

According to His Will

- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7*
- When we pray for peace.
- We know it is God's will
- We know we have the petition

What If we Don't Have Confidence?

- *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. Jas 1:3*
- How much trust and confidence should we have?
- *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Jas. 1:6-8*
- If we don't have confidence we don't have faith.
- If we don't have faith, we can't expect to receive.

According to His Will – Petitions

- *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1Jn. 1:7-10*
- *Lead us not into temptation*
- *Deliver us from the evil one*
- *Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed.*
- *In each of these we know His will.*
- *We can ask confidently and know He hears us.*
- *If we doubt we are doubleminded and unstable*

Two Different Prayers

*Boldness: if we ask according to his will.
We know he hears us and we have!*

*Humility: Not my will but yours. We do not
know how to pray as we ought.*

A Different Kind of Boldness

- We can boldly bring our petitions to Him.
- We can boldly know that he hears.
- We can boldly say “*if it by your will*”
- We can humbly and submissively wait for an answer
- The answer will be yes or no
- We will be happy with either answer because we know God’s will for us is better and wiser than our will.

Do we have Confidence?

- *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. 17 Elijah 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. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:16-18*

Elijah

- Elijah He Knew God's Will!
- *And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word. 2Kings 17:1*
- A man of like passions
- *And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" 1 Kings 19:4*
- He struggled with our struggles.

Confidence – Because it was God's Will

- *Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, 43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again." 44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" 1 Kings 18:42-44*
- Elijah knew it was God's will.
- Elijah had confidence

Jesus taught and lived fervency



- Friend at midnight Lk. 11:5-8
- The unrighteous judge Lk. 18:1-8
- Circumstances dictate emotions but always fervency and power exerted!
- Jesus in the garden:
- Sweat as blood Lk. 22:41-44
- Strong cries and tears Heb. 5:7-8



Fervent Prayer

Solomon's prayer for wisdom 1Kings 3:9-14

Hezekiah plea for longer life 2Kings 20:1-6

Nehemiah's plea to go to Jerusalem Neh. 1-2

James chose Elijah who "was a man with a nature like ours."

All who prayed had a like nature as ours.

What prayer did for them

under similar circumstances, it can do for us.

Fervent Prayer of **Righteous**



- *One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.” Pr. 28:9*
- *Prayer of the upright is His delight Pr 15:8*
- *Great need arises: consistent life of faithful and devoted service will be heard.*
- *Jesus “was heard because of His godly fear” Heb. 5:7*