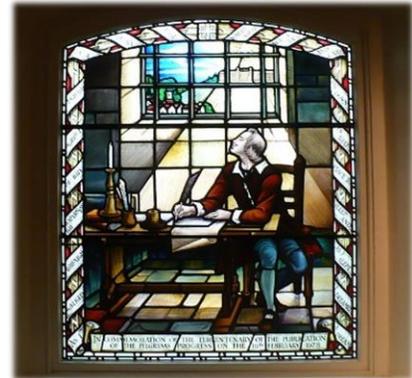


July 28, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

Prayer has been on my mind day after day. There's a great deal that we do not, and that we may not ever know about this current situation. But one thing that we do know, *with certainty*, is that the Lord is waiting on us *to pray*.



To be answered with a *yes*, our prayers ought to be according to what we find in Scripture to be God's interests; His purposes, His "program" for accomplishing them, and His timing for them (which means that we tell Him that we're willing to *wait*).

(I say, *ought to be according to what we find in Scripture*, because it's possible to receive a *yes*, about something which isn't God's original intent as to purpose, program or timing. *So He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them* (Ps. 106:15 NASB). Think of Balaam. Or of Israel's demanding a king, *like all the other nations*. Balaam got what he wanted. So did Israel. But what a cost.)

So what are God's interests in this present virus crisis?

If our prayers are scripturally informed, then we are certain that we will someday have the things we have desired.

This is the confidence which we have before Him that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him (I John 5:14b-15; NASB).

Amen! And what does *Amen* mean? Do we remember?

Amen, what was just written (or said, or sung) is *certain*. It's, *firmly fixed*. It's, *sure*. Amen. It *will be*. You can already take it to the bank.

But in the meantime, while we wait for the Lord to do as He has said. . . .

A Testimony

There's always an *immediate* benefit to praying. Like exercising. There's the long-term goal (being able to run a marathon, being able to touch your toes again, losing 50 lbs.), but there's also the immediate, short-term benefit from just putting on your running shoes and huffing it around the block today. Here's a testimony.

Last night I was rereading some of the notes that have come the last few months. One that caught my attention was sent by one of our elders. It confirms this blessed, *immediate* result of praying that I just mentioned.

I have been blessed over and over in the past several years from the following quote from one of our worship guides. I wish I knew the date that it appeared, but I just know that it was several years ago. I keep this in my prayer book and read it nearly every morning. It has been transformational!

“It is not that God is any more real in secret than He is in public, but we are. We all feel it the instant we turn the key and go to our knees. In that instant we are already new creatures.” Alexander Whyte

If you pray at all, you know that experience. It's a reason for not delaying to pray, especially out of any lethargy due to anticipating that it might take many prayers over many months or years to obtain your desires. Be assured that you will eventually receive them.

I had daily asked God, that He would be pleased, by His providential government, and by the working of His Holy Spirit, to fit and qualify helpers for the work; and now, when the house [a new orphan house] was ready, the helpers also were ready; so that without difficulty, and without advertising, they were obtained. Thus **these thousands of prayers** [emphasis, mine] reaped a precious harvest in this particular also.

Only continue, dear Christian reader, patiently to wait on God, and, as assuredly as your request is for the Glory of God, for your real good, and you ask in the name of the Lord Jesus, believing that God hears you,

the answer will be granted. You may have to pray long, as I had in this case for nearly seven years, but the answer is certain.

--George Müller, *A Narrative of the Lord's Dealings*. . .

But in the meantime, you're receiving what is actually the *greatest* benefit. The one that Romans 8:28-29 says is God's *ultimate* interest in you. He's interested in you, in me, because His ultimate interest is **His Son**. And we are *the means* to His obtaining for His Son what He purposed for Him from all eternity. You may have to read those two verses again (smile). And then, let's *get with the program!*

Maybe tomorrow I can share what I sometimes do when there are requests about which I anticipate I may have to *wait* for what I desire.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick