

## **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY**

*“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers...”*

1 Peter 3:12 (KJV)

One of the joys of the Christian walk is knowing God is involved in our lives and hears our prayers. More importantly, it is knowing He responds to them with the heart of a loving father.

Regarding this verse, who do we understand the righteous to be? Many are confused regarding this important question and as a result are filled with a misguided need to do good things for people, and God, in order to validate their self-worth. They focus on a strong sense of unworthiness and sin consciousness regarding their relationship and fellowship with the Father. Often, they deal with this by committing to a heavy burden of performing good works without which, they believe they will fail to enjoy the blessings of the Father's Family.

In 1 Corinthians 1:30, we are identified as being righteous because we dwell in Christ. This righteousness **does not** depend upon our personal worth, but is graciously conferred upon us by God. It is God Who has initiated, established, and continually maintains this reality. He does so through the Holy Spirit, the Word, and the Blood of Christ.

This is a relationship that places us in His family and in His heart. His love for us is unconditional and we are loved with a love that cannot change. This family position or His love cannot be earned by virtue of what we do. Jesus makes the comparison, as we love and watch over our children, our Heavenly Father cares much more for us. He embraces the responsibility to watch over our lives and **all** that pertains to us. So all of those unexpected blessings that turn up without a very clear explanation, they come from His tender care, willingly.

However, when things happen that we **don't** understand, we seek an answer and often one doesn't come right away. That is when we must stand firmly upon His love for us and know He is working out the details. The outcome will eventually benefit us and be to our joy and pleasure. In times like these, our challenge is to trust His love for us. Peter gives a picture here of God's responsiveness to us because of this relationship. We have His direct attention when we pray. He is a loving Father waiting to meet us at the point of our need.

In 1 John 5:14-15, John also speaks to this truth. If we hear what he is saying, it speaks so powerfully that all the faith-teaching we often are inundated with, must sit back and listen. First, God declares He will answer every petition that conforms to His will. I believe the Scripture gives to us a very clear explanation of His Will. And, His promises are a very clear picture of the perfect will of God that we can base our hope upon.

Second, I believe the all-important issue is this; our praying is only **one part** of this faith-issue. The far greater part is God's willingness to **"hear"** us when we pray and the fact that He does!. *John says our vital foundation for believing is, **knowing** God hears us when we pray!* If you can settle that issue in your heart, you will never walk in fear or go without knowing your prayers are being answered. I encourage you to come to a firm persuasion that God hears your petitions, and because of that truth you will *"have the petitions you desired of him."* Remember, He loves us enough to listen...and will firmly act on our behalf because He hears us.