

WHY SHOULD GOD ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS? Selected Texts

Imagine that you are alone and in prayer. While you are praying about a specific matter, an angel appears to you. The angel asks, "Why should the Lord answer this particular request?" What would you say? So often we pray simply because we want something and never give any thought as to *why* the Lord should answer that particular prayer. An examination of the prayers in the Bible will reveal that quite often those who prayed gave reasons in their prayers why the Lord should answer. What does this mean? It means that we, too, should learn the reasons why God should answer our prayers and give them when we pray.

I. THE GENERAL REASON WHY GOD SHOULD ANSWER OUR PRAYERS IS THE CROSS

Our sin separates us from God and causes Him to turn His face from our prayers (Isa. 59:2). But through the Cross (i.e., the death and resurrection) of Jesus Christ we can be made right with God. When a person repents and believes in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, he or she enters into a new and living relationship with God. Because of that relationship as a child of God, this new member of God's family has the privilege of praying with the confidence that God will hear with a view to answering. See also Heb. 10:19-22.

II. WE SHOULD ALSO GIVE TO GOD A SPECIFIC REASON TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS

A. Because praying this way is modeled in Scripture

1. See Gen. 32:11-12 and Neh. 1:4-11, esp. vv. 8-9 where a *promise of God* is given as a reason God should answer.
2. See Ps. 25:6-7, 51:1, 119:68, and 119:73 where an *attribute of God* is given as a reason God should answer.
3. See Num. 14:11-20, 1 Kin. 18:36-37, 2 Kin. 19:19, Ps. 79:9, and Jn. 17:1 where the *glory of God* is given as a reason God should answer.
4. See Ps. 67:1-2, 7 where *proclamation of the way of God* is given as a reason God should answer.
5. See Ps. 119:94, 125, and Isa. 64:8-12 where *relationship to God* is given as a reason God should answer.
6. See Kin. 20:3, Ps. 119:22, 66, 121, 153, and 176 where *obedience to God* is given as a reason God should answer.
7. See Ps. 119:17, 33, 88, 134, 145, and 146 where *future obedience to God* is given as a reason God should answer.
8. See 1 Jn. 5:14-15 where the *will of God* is given as a reason God should answer.

B. Because praying this way is valuable to us

1. It helps us pray more effectively, though it doesn't obligate or manipulate God.
2. It helps us pray with more faith and eagerness.
3. It helps us pray with a better understanding of the character of God.
4. It helps us pray less flippantly and selfishly.

MORE APPLICATION

1. "God loves to have us plead with Him, and use arguments in prayer" (Thomas Watson).
2. Let's find reasons why God should answer our prayers and give them when we pray.