

## Prayer to Go Lecture 7 Notes

### Some Prayers are Answered Slowly

- I. Introduction
  - a. When we pray prayers that are focused on his kingdom, even when we are praying for ourselves and asking God to bless us, how quickly will God answer those prayers?
- II. Body
  - a. Examples of God's timing
    - i. Abraham's servant asked for guidance for finding a wife for his master's son. His answer was there before he finished praying. Gen. 24.12-15
    - ii. Joseph had to wait 2 years before getting out of prison. Gen. 40.6- 41.14
    - iii. Abraham had to wait 25 years to receive his promised son, Isaac. Gen. 12.4-21.5.
    - iv. The Israelites in Egypt waited 400 years before becoming free by God through Moses.
    - v. God can answer prayers quickly or he can answer slowly. When it's slow, it means wait.
  - b. Six reasons God may have us wait before we see answers to our prayers.
    - i. When God hears our prayers, he is first and foremost worried about our relationship with Him.
      - 1. Ps. 18.19 He tells us the He delights in us.
      - 2. Zeph. 3.17 He rejoices over us with shouts of joy.
      - 3. One of the best ways to God gets undistracted time with us is during our times of prayer.
      - 4. If we got quick answers to our prayers all the time, we probably would not be spending that much time with the Lord.
      - 5. Use your prayer time to delight in God, get to know him...don't simply rush through your prayer list.

- ii. God may have deep lessons for us to discover which take a long time to learn.
  - 1. Until we (or those we are praying for) have learned those deep lessons, God is going to hold off from the answer to that prayer until those lessons are learned.
    - a. You could pray to the Lord that if there are lessons you need to learn, then do not answer my prayers until you've learned those lessons.
- iii. God wants us to pray in humility
  - 1. We don't know completely what God is doing in the big picture, whether there are lessons we, or others need to learn, therefore we need to pray humbly.
    - a. 2 Chron. 12. 6-7 The Israelites had abandoned God, therefore God said he abandoned them. The leaders knew they were wrong, they humbled themselves and prayed. When God saw their change of heart, he released them from the circumstance.
  - 2. Humility releases God to work in our lives (and the lives of others) to answer our prayers.
  - 3. Jesus' attitude: Jesus did not want to go on the cross, He asked the Father to take it away, but He prayed Father I want your will to be done, not mine. Luke 22.42
  - 4. We should come boldly to the throne, asking God to deliver us, yet willing to say, "I yield to your will."
- iv. God wants to teach us perseverance.
  - 1. God says in His word, to be persistent in our prayers and not give up.
    - a. Luke 18. 1-8. The parable about the widow, she kept coming before the unjust judge for her request. Because of her persistence, he gave her the request. God would do even more for his chosen people.

- 2. Pray LSD (long steady disciplined)prayers
      - a. There are times we have prayers we have been praying about for years.
      - b. Some answers are going to take time, there are not quick fixes to building godly character in a person.
  - v. Our prayers can be the catalyst to fighting between the good and evil in the heavenly realm.
    - 1. Dan. 10.12-14 Daniel prayed and did not see an answer for 3 weeks, then an angel appeared and said that from the first day of his prayer , his words were heard and a response was dispatched. It was held up by a spiritual battle in the heavens.
    - 2. If you are praying for the advancement of God's kingdom, Satan is not happy about that and he fights it. Therefore, there are spiritual battles that must be fought.
  - vi. While waiting, our praise to God for his faithfulness will be far greater, then after the prayer is heard.
    - 1. Dan. 3.17-18 Shadrack, Meshack and Abendigo praised God even in the midst of death.
    - 2. Praising God and trusting him before the answer to prayer comes is in many ways far more glorious than after the answer comes.
- III. Conclusion: God answers our prayers according to His timing.