

## PRAYER -- LESSON ONE

### TO WHOM WILL GOD RESPOND IN PRAYER?

#### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Prayer is a universal tendency: 2 Chron.6:32-33; Acts 17:22-29.

"... the deepest and most universal desire of the human heart: ... the desire of finite man to make real, personal contact with the Power that transcends time, space, and matter. Men everywhere from the beginning have prayed! They often prayed blindly, uncertainly, and erratically --- but they prayed! They may vainly attempt to avoid the reality of the Supreme Being, and thus their need of supernatural help, by escaping into atheism or agnosticism; but when great danger or death threatens, they readily exercise their power of free choice to pray by frantically crying out for divine assistance!

"Man's tendency to pray is as universal as his tendency to be religious, and it is axiomatic that the one common element in every form of religion the world has known, both past and present, is prayer. Prayer has been described as 'the distilled essence of religion'. Indeed, a history of prayer would be a history of the religious life of mankind." [PRAYER, Copyright 1963 by James M. Tolle, pg. 3]

- B. Although prayer is a universal tendency, we must note that God will respond only to the prayers of those of certain qualities or character.

#### II. DISCUSSION:

- A. God will respond to the prayers of the following:
1. **His children.** Matt.6:6; 26:39, 42; 7:7-11.
    - a) All men are sons of God by creation. Gen.6:2; Lk.3:38; Acts 17:26.
    - b) But one must be born again and become a "new creature" to be a true child of God! Jno.3:3, 5; 2 Cor.5:17.
  2. **The Righteous.** I Pet.3:12; Jas.5:16; Prov.15:29; [See Lk.1:6 and Acts 10:35]
  3. **The Obedient.** John 9:31; 15:7; I John 3:22.
  4. **Holy Men** [Those characterized by Godly living.] I Tim.2:8.
  5. **A Devout Man.** Acts 10:2, 30, 31; John 9:31.
  6. **Those who turn away from their wicked ways.** 2 Chron.7:14; Acts 8:18-22; James 5:15-16.
- B. God will turn His ear away from hearing the following:
1. **Those who do evil.** I Pet.3:12.
  2. **Those who turn away from hearing His law.** Prov.28:9.
  3. **Those who regard iniquity in their heart.** Psa.66:18; Isa.59:1-2.
  4. **Sinners.** Isa.59:1-2; Jno.9:31. [The kind described in points 1, 2, & 3 above.] Note---
    - a) God will respond to those who turn to Him and those who are willing "to hear all things that have

been commanded...". Acts 10:33. See points 5 and 6 of A above.

- b) An "**alien sinner**" is not under consideration in these passages nor in Prov.28:9; I Pet.3:12; Psa.34:15-16. To so apply them would be a misuse of the verses!
- c) It is only natural that sincere aliens seeking salvation will pray as in the cases of Cornelius and Saul. Although their praying did not save them, God did respond to their prayers. Acts 9:10-11; 22:10-16; 10:31.

### III. CONCLUSION:

God will respond to those who will respond to Him by reverential obedience to His will. Let us endeavor to make the necessary changes in our character that our prayers may be answered!