

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER -- # 2

I. INTRODUCTION

We shall continue our study of requirements of acceptable prayer by noticing the condition of faith! Someone has well said that the scientific age allows men to pray to God -- if there be a God -- to save his soul -- if he has a soul! The Bible, however, allows for no doubt at all! See James 1:6 and Heb.11:6. Our prayers must be prayers of faith -- Matt.21:21-22 [also Mark 11:23-24]; James 5:15. Faith in two facts is required: (1) That God **HEARS**, and (2) The He is **ABLE to GRANT** our requests!

II. DISCUSSION:

- A. Faith in the fact that God hears us -- I John 5:14-15.
- Note the expressions "boldness" and "we know" in this passage.
    - Heb.4:16 speaks of boldness.
    - The idea is that we present our petitions in confidence of being heard.
    - The source of boldness is found in verse 13 and 3:21-22.
  - Matt.6:6 -- "shall recompense thee" = shall "hear thee", in contrast to the hypocritical prayers heard by men but not by God!
  - Christ had confidence of being heard (John 11:42) and **was heard** -- Heb.5:7.
  - The fact that God will hear is repeatedly declared -  
2 Sam.22:7; Psa.22:4-5, 24; 30:2; 31:22; 34:4-6; Matt.7:7-11; Luke 1:13; 18:1-8; James 1:5; 5:16-17.
- B. Faith in the fact that God is willing and able to grant our petitions -- I John 5:15.
- "...we know that we **HAVE** the petitions which we have asked of Him."
  - Mark 11:24 -- "...believe that you **HAVE** received them..."
  - James 1:6 -- "nothing doubting".. i.e., We cannot shift backwards and forwards between faith and doubt. We cannot be characterized by confidence at one point and then doubt and suspicion at another. We must be fixed in our persuasion that God is, that He is the hearer of prayers, and that He will grant our requests.
  - Persistency in prayer is taught in Luke 18:1-8 and 11:5-10, not because God is unwilling to hear nor because He is unable to grant requests, but because "**faith needs to find some resistance before it can be called out in any strength!**" See also Matt.15:22-28.

CONCLUSION:

Heb.11:6- "Without faith it is impossible to please Him...". Without faith in God, the fact that He is, the fact that He hears, the fact that He is able to grant our

requests, our prayers are mockeries and can be nothing more than offensive to God!