

The God Who Answers Prayer

“Thy Prayer Is Heard”

Text - Luke 1

Introduction: The God of the Bible is *"The God Who Answers Prayer!"* His great promises concerning prayer throughout the Bible verify that He is certainly involved in this business. An example in the Old Testament is, *"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"* (Jer. 33:3). In the New Testament, Jesus said, *"Ask, and it shall be given you"* (Matt. 7:7).

Luke 1 illustrates the commitment of God to answer prayer. A *"priest named Zacharias"* (1:5) was ministering in the temple and *"there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord"* (1:11). Initially, he was very troubled to see the angel. But, the angel said unto him, *"Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard...."* (1:13).

By means of the expression *"thy prayer is heard"* notice the following:

1. The Guidelines God Sets

Three guidelines in the first division (Luke 1:5-17):

A. *His Own Channels*

B. *His Own Time*

C. *His Own Will*

2. The Grace God Shows

All the actions of God are actions of grace. In Spite of:

A. *The Hesitancies*

B. *The Hindrances*

C. *The Hour*

3. The Glory God Shares

Grace leads to glory! True in Christian experience.

A. *In the Family*

B. *To the Father*

C. *For the Future*

Conclusion: George Mueller, the great Victorian Christian and social reformer, tells a story of persistent prayer in his diary:

In November 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land, on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be. Eighteen months elapsed before the first of the five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others. Five years elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second, and prayed on for the other three. Day by day, I continued to pray for them, and six years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three, and went on praying for the other two. These two remained unconverted.

Thirty-six years later he wrote that the other two, sons of one of Mueller's friends, were still not converted. He wrote, *"But I hope in God, I pray on, and look for the answer. They are not converted yet, but they will be."* In 1897, fifty-two years after he began to pray daily, without interruption, for these two men, they were finally converted—but after he died! Mueller understood the parable Jesus told about prayer, *"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"* - Luke 18:1

Unanswered prayer? How do we ever know for sure it will remain unanswered? Since we do not, we should always pray and not give up. God hears and answers prayer! Oh, may we persevere with praying! May we continue to seek His face! Somewhere, He will unite *our* will with *His* will, and *"The God Who Answers Prayer"* will be pleased to work in our lives for His glory and His honor.

God has given you His promise
That He hears and answers prayer.
He will heed your supplication
If you cast on Him your care.

Refrain

*He will answer every prayer,
He will answer every prayer,
Go to Him in faith believing,
He will answer every prayer.*

He will not withhold one blessing,
He will give you what is best.
God will answer by His Spirit,
Every one who makes request.

He can hear the great petition,
And the smallest, over there.
Unto God pray without ceasing,
He will answer every prayer.

Take to God your plans and failures,
Anytime and anywhere.
No one ever goes unanswered,
For He answers every prayer.