

## PRAYERS THAT ARE HEARD BY GOD

### *Note to the speaker:*

Convince the audience that the true God does hear and act on prayers that meet Bible requirements. Use Bible examples to show how Jehovah answers prayers. You may also consult the Society's *Indexes* under "PRAYER" for modern-day experiences that show how God answers prayers

### **PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS PRAY** (3 min.)

Yet many prayers not answered

Prayers for world peace not being answered (*w92* 3/1 6)

In wartime, both sides pray; one side "wins"

Same true of sports contestants who pray (*g94* 2/8 31)

"No atheists in the foxholes," yet many soldiers are killed (*g66* 7/8 5)

But God hears sincere truth seekers (1Ki 8:41-43; Ac 10:31)

### **NEED TO BE DIRECTED TO TRUE GOD, THROUGH CHRIST, WITH PROPER MOTIVE** (10 min.)

True God, Jehovah; we must call on his name (Ac 2:21)

All other gods vain, powerless (Ps 115:4-8)

Prayers to them futile (1 Ki 18:26-29)

Must be made through Jesus Christ (Joh 14:6; 16:23)

Must be an earnest seeker after God (Heb 11:6)

Love of righteousness essential (Pr 15:29; compare Isa 1:15)

Humility required (Ps 138:6)

Must persevere (Lu 18:1-8)

Not acceptable to memorize and use same words over and over

### **PRAYERS MUST BE FOR RIGHT THINGS AND BE SPECIFIC** (15 min.)

For triumph of righteousness over God's foes (Ps 83:1, 2, 16-18)

For sanctification of God's name (Mt 6:9)

For Kingdom to come, God's will to be done on earth (Mt 6:10)

For prosperity of Kingdom work (Mt 9:38; 2Th 3:1)

For brothers: Those taking lead; those persecuted, ill, aged (Ps 41:1-3; Ac 12:5)

On personal concerns

For forgiveness where we have come short (Mt 6:12)

For wisdom in dealing with certain problem (Jas 1:5-7)

For help in overcoming certain sin or weakness (Jas 5:14, 15)

For privilege of conducting Bible study

For material concerns: Health, employment, and so on

Must be in line with God's will (Mt 26:39; 1Jo 5:14)

### **TO SHOW SINCERITY, CONSISTENCY, MUST WORK AT WHAT WE PRAY FOR** (10 min.)

Jacob's example when faced with meeting Esau (Ge 32:9-21)

David's example when Absalom rebelled (2Sa 15:31-34; 17:8-14)

Not enough just to pray to have the privilege of conducting a Bible study

Be zealous in house-to-house work and making return visits

Be concerned with improving one's effectiveness

Plant and water for God to make it grow (1Co 3:5-7)

### **MEANS THAT JEHOVAH USES TO ANSWER PRAYERS** (5 min.)

His Word and active force (Ps 119:105; Zec 4:6)

Angelic direction and assistance (Ps 34:7)

Human agencies: Society, elders, our brothers

At times his answer may be, No (2Co 12:8, 9)

### **PRAYERS OF FAITH ASSURED OF DIVINE ATTENTION** (2 min.)

Bible reveals Jehovah as Hearer of prayer (Ps 65:2)

God pleased thus to provide communication through Christ

Assures petitioners, prayers will be appropriately considered for best interests (Jas 1:5)

(Note: Society's *Indexes* furnish ample references, such as *w92* 4/15 3-6; *w91* 9/15 3-8; *w88* 3/15 4-7, in support of the above; use above scriptures as time permits)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)

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TO BE COVERED IN 45 MINUTES

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