

Believing in Your Prayers

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6)

- I. **Trusting in God to reward “those who earnestly seek Him” can get clouded with fear and anxiety.**
 - A. How many of us have earnestly prayed about a matter and actually felt more anxious after praying?
 - B. Earnestly seeking God in prayer is meant to do two things.
 1. Change the status quo
 2. Guard our hearts from fear and anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7)

- II. **Settling the question of our allegiance and loyalty to God greatly increases our capacity to believe our own prayers. Amos 3:3 records God as saying, “Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”**
 - A. We must agree with God about needing forgiveness and making Him the Lord of our lives (Psalm 32:1-11; I John 1:8, 9).
 - B. We must also agree with God to receive His wisdom for particular problems in our lives (James 1:5-8; Isaiah 30:1-3, 15-21).

- III. **Believing in the goodness of the Lord helps us to expect God to answer our prayers (Psalm 27:13-14).**
 - A. The New American Standard Version says, “I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13).
 - B. There is only enough room in your heart either to trust in God’s love for you, or to believe a lie (John 10:10; Jeremiah 29:11; Hebrews 13:5-6).
 - C. Worshiping in the presence of God brings a sense of God’s love and goodness from which we can boldly and confidently pray (Psalm 27:4-14).
 - D. Giving thanks for past victories gives confidence to earnestly petition God for current needs (Philippians 4:6).

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