

# WILL GOD HEED MY PRAYER?

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If I pray or seek the God's help and blessing by relying on something I have done or said, which may be of some merit, as in "Lord, please help with this matter, because I deserve some consideration, on account of the fact that I have done such and such good and worthwhile deed .....", I am immediately plunged into doubt, despair and unbelief.

Attempting to establish some justification or some right of mine before the Lord immediately reminds me of the many instances, in which I disobeyed or transgressed and places doubts on whether the balance overall may tilt in my favor and therefore whether, in fact, God will hear and help me.

The only solid foundation for my requests is God's love, which He manifested by His sacrifice of dying crucified. The only firm, solid and truly unshakeable foundation — on which I can stand before Him and in which I can fully trust — is the Cross of Christ and my assurance cannot be based on anything other than the belief that He is the One, not on any other justification, logical construct, deduction or argument.

- Trust in the Cross — as the Apostle Paul learned and hence taught the Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 2:2** *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. [KJV]*

- Belief that Jesus is the One Lord — as memorialized by the centurion, who had pleaded with Jesus for his paralyzed servant:

**Matthew 8:5–8** *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup>saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." <sup>7</sup>And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." <sup>8</sup>The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed." [NKJV]*

Such a firm and determined trust surprised Jesus, who marveled and granted the request right away:

**Matthew 8:10, 13** *When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ..... <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. [NKJV]*

- No other justification or argument with God, but trust in Him:

**1 Corinthians 1:21** *God wisely planned that the world would not know him through its own wisdom. It pleased God to use the foolish things we preach to save those who believe. [NIRV]*

Because,

**1 Corinthians 3:19a** *..... the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. .... [NRSV]*

Thus if I stand at the Cross, I realize that God sent Christ to Calvary for me: not because of any merit of mine, rather only as a manifestation of His immense and unconditional love:

**Romans 5:8** *..... God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. [NLT]*

This is the foundation, which enabled the New Covenant between God and humankind and through which I have been born again:

**1 Peter 1:23** *You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. [NRSV]*

Born again and hence, have become a new creature:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. [KJV]*

New creature, in whom, by faith, Christ lives:

**Galatians 2:20** *and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. [HCSB]*

"Christ lives in me": as Jesus had requested, in His high priestly prayer, just before His crucifixion:

**John 17:20–21** *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; <sup>21</sup>That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. [KJV]*

Therefore, being "one in us," I may remember what Jesus revealed, when He prepared to bring Lazarus back to life:

**John 11:41b-42a** *Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. <sup>42a</sup>And I know that You always hear Me, ....."* [NKJV]

Jesus' prayers are heard — they are always and unfaithfully heard.

Since Christ dwells in me — as granted by the New Covenant, which God inaugurated by the Cross on Calvary — my prayers are also heard — always and unfaithfully.

In unity with the Living Christ, I shall then be confident of praying as Jesus did:

**Mark 14:36b** ..... "yet not what I will, but what You will." [NASB]

My confidence then rests on the knowledge that:

**Romans 8:32** *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?* [NASB]

Finally, when I ask the Lord for help, it is important to have present this:

**Corinthians 1:3-4** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* [NKJV]

The Lord's mercies and comfort are aimed at my being able to serve Him by bringing His mercies and comfort to others, who are in need.

I then understand that:

**1 John 4:19** *We love him, because he loved us first.* [GNV]

And therefore,

**John 14:15** *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* [KJV]

I am not worthy, but what God looks for is not my worth, rather my faith, as the centurion expressed it in Capernaum (**Matthew 8:8**).

My faith is expressed by simply placing Him above everyone else and everything else: this is the cost and the glory of discipleship.

**Matthew 10:37-38** *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."* [KJV]

Then I shall have perfect assurance of His care, no matter what happens. All doubt, despair and unbelief will dissolve, because:

**Isaiah 26:3** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.* [KJV]