

An Unshakeable Foundation for our Praying

Text: But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

Question 117: How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

Answer:

1. We must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, who has revealed Himself to us in His Word, asking for everything He has commanded us to ask of Him.
2. We must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence.
3. We must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord, as He has promised us in His Word.

Intro: Q116 the need for prayer; Q117 the method of prayer

1. To whom? For what? Recognizing...
2. An unshakable foundation
 - a. The promise
 - b. The reason

Our Text:

The situation

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him [Stephen] to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. (Acts 8:1)

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest... (Acts 9:1)

So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word... (Acts 11:19)

Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. (Acts 12:1)

The solution - ask _____

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

Reason 3:

The qualification

Application 1: Difficulty

And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. (Mark 11:22-24)

Miraculous faith - 1 Corinthians 12:9; 13:2

Application 2: Why?

God is most _____ in us when we are most _____ on Him.

Application 3: Prayer's Effect

"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." (Mark 9:24)