



Answer

*Tupos Student Ministries
Wednesday Night Live – September 28, 2011*

Video = "Prayer Struggle" (Unknown Producer, 1:49)

Have you ever been there? Are you there now? Where your prayer is "are you even listening, God?" I need to know that God answers my prayers!

This psalmist (David) has been there... listen to his cry for help:

Psalm 69:13-18 = "And me? I pray. God, it's time for a break! God, answer in love! Answer with your sure salvation! Rescue me from the swamp, Don't let me go under for good, Pull me out of the clutch of the enemy; This whirlpool is sucking me down. Don't let the swamp be my grave, the Black Hole Swallow me, its jaws clenched around me. Now answer me, God, because you love me; Let me see your great mercy full-face. Don't look the other way; your servant can't take it. I'm in trouble. Answer right now! Come close, God; get me out of here. Rescue me from this deathtrap." (Msg)

I. The Beginning Of Our Prayer Lives

a. Praying From The Start

- i. Have you ever thought about where your prayer life got its start? How you came to pray like you pray?
 1. Began with bedtime prayers as a child or the Lord's Prayer in Sunday School, or learned from your parents/pastor/friends?...

b. Our Prayer Life Right Now

- i. Right now... is your prayer life (talking to God) more an obligation or do you enjoy conversing with Him?

c. David's Prayer Life Right Now

- i. Little history = "Psalm 69 is a psalm of lament, is more specifically a protest of innocence. This highly messianic psalm presents a remarkable description of the suffering of Jesus Christ... emotional and spiritual suffering... begin(s) with the sufferings of David but (has its') full meaning in the sufferings of Jesus." (**Compact Bible Comm, pg 387**)
- ii. Ever been there? Just struggling? Saying, "Help!"

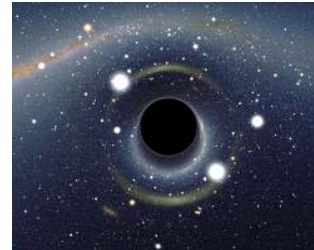
II. The Black Hole In Our Prayer Lives

a. Falling In This Black Hole

- i. "A black hole is a region of spacetime from which nothing, not even light, can escape... Black holes of stellar mass are expected to form when massive stars collapse in a supernova at the end of their life cycle." (Wikipedia.org)
- ii. V.15 = "Don't let the swamp be my grave, the Black Hole swallow me, its jaws clenched around me."
- iii. "Black Hole" = life without God, swallowed up..
- iv. Ever been a time in your life when you have felt like you've been in a "black hole"? (No way out, world is closing in all around you, no hope, in too deep!)

b. Getting Out Of This Black Hole

- i. Here's some wisdom from godly men, in efforts to avoid this black hole with our prayer lives:
 1. Pray from the start = "He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day." (John Bunyan)
 2. Pray from the heart = "The fewer the words, the better the prayer. To have prayed well is to have studied well." (Martin Luther)
 3. Pray & try to be smart = "Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers!" (William Culbertson)
 4. Pray & let Him do His part = "Prayer doesn't change God – it changes me." (C.S. Lewis)
- ii. If we get serious about praying like we mean it, we will begin to see some tremendous benefits in us:



III. The Benefits Of Our Prayer Lives

- a. **Prayer deepens our relationship with Jesus Christ.** (It helps us to understand the character of the loving God we serve.)
- b. **Prayer purifies our lives.** (By confessing our sins and leaving them at God's feet, we can be relieved of unnecessary guilt and shame.)

- c. **Prayer helps us to trust God as our provider.** (As life's pressures increase, we will anticipate our times of fellowship with Him.)
- d. **Prayer leads to spiritual growth and maturity.** (The more time we spend with God, the more equipped we will be to help others and to weather the storms in our own lives.)
- e. **Best benefit of all = God answers our prayers!**
 - i. Don't believe me? Listen up!

IV. The Answer To Our Prayers

a. Our Cry

- i. Maybe your cry sounds a lot like David's tonight:

Psalm 69:13 = "And me? I pray. God, it's time for a break! God, answer in love! Answer with your sure salvation! (Msg)

b. His Time

- i. Psalm 69:13, NIV = "...LORD, in the time of your favor; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation."
- ii. See the formula here? = His time, His great love, His salvation = it is all about Him!
 1. Notice that it is not all about us! He cares for US, but He needs us to get with HIM.
 2. John 3:30 = "He must become greater & greater, and I must become less & less." (NLT)
 3. Our God is greater! If we believe that, our prayers take on a whole new meaning!
- iii. What kind of pray-er are you?
 1. "God, I need this..." or "God, what would you have me to do about this..."
 2. "God, I want..." or "God, what do I need?"

c. The Reply

- i. The answer will come... I promise! = "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14, ESV)
- ii. What's the answer? "If the request is wrong, God says, 'No.' If the timing is wrong, God says, 'Slow.' If you are wrong, God says, 'Grow.' But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, 'Go!'" (Bill Hybels, Too Busy Not To Pray, IVP, p. 74)

Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Lesson Theme: Prayer

Lesson Objective: This is part 2 of our 2-part series about prayer. This week we will focus on seeing how God actually does answer prayer, whether it is the way we want Him to or not.

Lesson Text: **Psalm 69:13** = "And me? I pray. God, it's time for a break! God, answer in love! Answer with your sure salvation! (Msg)

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt like the guy in that video? (Struggling with prayer and wondering why God doesn't answer you?)
2. Name one benefit of prayer that means the most to you.
3. Spend time sharing answers to your recent prayers.

Prayer Time: Thank the Lord for answered prayers, especially when His answer is better than the one we were hoping for.



Answer

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I. The _____ Of Our Prayer Lives

a. Praying From The _____

- How have you come to pray like you pray?

b. Our _____ Right Now

c. _____ Prayer Life Right Now

- Ever been there? Just struggling? "Help!"

II. The _____ In Our Prayer Lives



a. Falling In This _____

- V.15 = "Don't let the swamp be my grave, the Black Hole swallow me, its jaws clenched around me."

b. Getting Out Of This _____

- Pray from the _____
- Pray from the _____
- Pray & try to be _____
- Pray & let Him do His _____



c. The _____ Of Our Prayer Lives

1. Prayer _____ our relationship with Christ
2. Prayer _____ our lives
3. Prayer _____ us to _____ God as provider
4. Prayer leads to _____ growth & maturity
5. Best benefit of all = God _____ our prayers!

III. The _____ To Our Prayers

a. Our _____

Psalm 69:13 = "And me? I pray.
God, it's time for a break!
God, answer in love! Answer with
your sure salvation! (Msg)"

b. His _____

"If the request is wrong, God says, 'No.' If the timing is wrong, God says, 'Slow.' If you are wrong, God says, 'Grow.' But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, 'Go!'" (Bill Hybels)

c. The _____