

# The Expectations of Prayer



Inherent in the concept of prayer is the expectation that not only will God hear us, but that He will be moved to help us. If this wasn't true, then why would one even pray? Our expectations in prayer are really an expectation of God. We pray because we believe God can and will do something.

## Hearing the Cries of His People Has Always Touched the Heart of God:

- Ex 2:23-24 Israel cried out for help and God heard their \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps 72:12 For He will deliver the needy when he \_\_\_\_\_ for help...
- Mt 20:30 Two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, 'Lord, have \_\_\_\_\_ on us, Son of David!'
- Lk 17:13 Ten lepers cried out, 'Jesus, Master, have \_\_\_\_\_ on us!'
- Mt 15:25 The Canaanite woman, whose daughter was demon possessed, said, 'Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ me.'

A. We are encouraged to come boldly or confidently to the throne of Grace (Heb 4:16)  
What gives us this confidence?

Why would one pray doubting?



How is this man "double-minded"?



Why is he "unstable"?



### James 1:5-7

**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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to **expect** that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways**

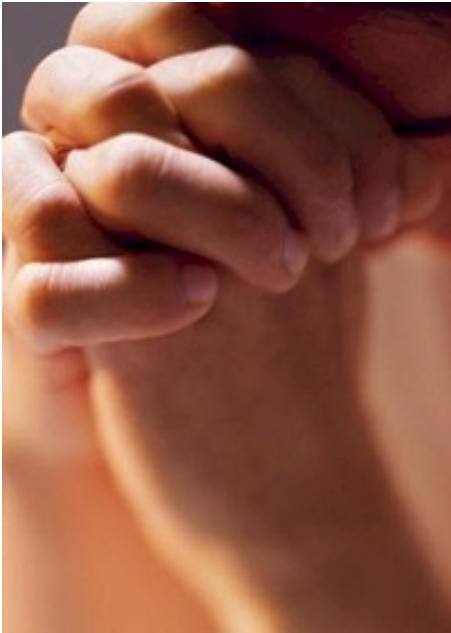


• **EXPECTATIONS OF GOD**

1. The man in this passage will not receive what he expected. What will that do to that man's faith?
2. Our expectations in prayer can be out of line, not because of God but because of us
  - 1 Jn 5:14 Prayer must be according to God's \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1 Pet 3:7 the way we \_\_\_\_\_ others impacts our prayers
  - Mt 6:15 we must \_\_\_\_\_ others
  - 1 Jn 1:6-10 how we view \_\_\_\_\_ impacts our relationship with God and our prayers

### James 5:13-18

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; <sup>15</sup> and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.



B. The Point of this passage is to teach that prayer is effective, powerful and works.

1. What are some things that are accomplished by prayer (16)?

How does my view of God effect what I expect from my prayers?

How does the concept of "not my will, but Thy will be done" influence my expectations of prayer?

Learning that God's promise of a child to Abraham was not fulfilled until 25 years later do to my expectations of prayer?

What does Hab 1:1-5 teach me about my expectations in prayer?

B. One of the hardest aspects of prayer to deal with is when God does not answer your prayer in the way you wanted. It was not what you expected.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is an answer
- We must realize that God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ things that we cannot
- We often want God to move the Red Sea, but instead, He finds a way for us to \_\_\_\_\_ through it
- God sees a \_\_\_\_\_ in suffering that we often do not appreciate (Jas 1:3-5)
- 2 Sam 12:16-23 what do we learn from David when his prayer was answered "No"
- 2 Cor 12:7-10 What do we learn from Paul when his prayer was answered, "No"