

## **ANSWERED PRAYER**

“Prayer!” What a powerful and yet loaded word. Several times in recent weeks I *have* had excited brothers and sisters share with me that God answered their prayers with a “Yes.” That is always exciting!

God always answers prayer for His faithful children. Sometimes He says, “Yes, and right away!” Sometimes He says, “Yes, but wait for a while.” Sometimes He simply says, “No.” That is not so exciting, at least not on the surface.

Faithfulness is a serious issue. In Isaiah 59 God warns us that He hides His face from us if we are not faithful to Him.

*Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear. – Isaiah 59:1-2*

The issue is **not**, “Can God do it or not?” The issue **is** twofold:

1. Am I separated from God because of un-repenting sin,
2. Is it really what is best for me?

Mature Christians repent when they sin. That is the crux of “walking in the light,” I John 1:5-9. Mature Christians accept a “No” from God as well as a “Yes.” When God says “No” to mature Christians, He is doing so our own good. We may not understand it. We may not comprehend any portion of the “why” behind His negative answer. But we accept it and rejoice at His wise answer.

What have you prayed for lately? Have you had the courage to pray specifically? Have you had the insight to pray according to God’s will as Jesus did in Matthew 26:38-41. Are you praying regularly before every major decision? ***Are you remembering that His answers to faithful children are always what is best for us?***

When all is said and done, do you thank Him for the “No” as well as the “Yes”? I find myself praying more and more “Your will be done” because I recognize more and more His incredible love for us and that *Father knows best*.

Hallelujah for the “Yes” answers and “Hallelujah anyway” when, from His infinite wisdom, He answers, “No.”

Thank you, Father for your indescribable love and unending wisdom.

Ray Wallace

Further study: Isaiah 59:1-12; Matthew 7:7-11; I Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 1:5-8.