

This Morning God is willing - God desires/ really wants to answer our prayers

There are things we believe in our head, that we don't believe where it matters - heart

- God is able to give us more than we ask or imagine
- God wants to and is able to heal us
- God wants to and is able to meet all our needs
- God is able to free us from anything and everything that binds us - sin / habits
- God is able to save anyone no matter where they're at

Problem, what you believe in heart, not head is what will determine the level of your faith in God

Jesus tells a story to help his disciples understand how God responds to prayer (Luke 18:1-5)

The Widow, The Judge - widow found justice through her ability to pester judge

Here's the problem, we read this story

- we believe we're like the widow / God's like the judge

We think prayer is about wearing God down, so we can tear a blessing out of his clenched fists

- many of us think God's like the judge and prayer is about finding the secret key to unlock blessing
- blessings that God would rather not give to us
- my point this morning is to say, please don't ever think of God that way - not Jesus' point

Jesus didn't tell story to show us we're like the Widow & God's like the judge

- as soon as he tells the story, he tells us what his point is (read 7-8)

we are not like the widow, we are God's adopted children (read Romans 8:13-17)

- and as such we don't need to pester God (read Hebrews 4:16)
- and God is nothing like the judge - he is righteous/ just/ holy and tender/ caring (Psalm 34:8)
- God loves to bestow his blessings on his children, it's in his nature, it's who he is
- be humble, be obedient, be faithful, and God can't help but pour out his blessings on you (Leviticus 26:3-6/ Deuteronomy 28:2-6, 12)
- but we can block that blessing - what God says to David after sinning (2Sam 12:7-9)

In N.T. God takes it to a whole other level

- Jesus taught us to call God what? (Abba, Father, Daddy)
- the most repeated prayer in the world begins with the words? (our Father)
- Galatians 4:4-7 / Romans 8:16-17

Point, You and I if you've given your life to Christ, he's adopted us as his children

- and as God's children and his legal heirs, he wants to listen to us
- and he wants to give us good gifts, he wants to answer our prayers
- but if you want to receive answers to prayer you must?.....(pray!)
- that's why I said several weeks ago and I believe this more and more as each day goes by...
  - to the degree that we as a church becomes a church who prays, seeks God
  - is to the degree that we will witness God at work in our midst.
  - now not all of us can make it to prayer meeting - I understand that....

For some of us the struggle isn't with believing God wants to answer prayer...

-you're just not sure God wants to answer your prayers (failures/ sin/ broken promises/ etc)

-read **2 Chronicles 33:1-13**

Question: If God could hear Manasseh's prayer and restore him and use him...

-do you believe God is willing to restore, to hear your prayers and use you?

-repeat after me, "God wants to answer my prayers" - say it again

-but sometimes like David/Manasseh we allow things to get in the way of God answering

God will not give us the gifts he wants to give us if....?

-sin, disobedience, pride, don't ask, ask with wrong (motives?)

-but when we humble ourselves, when we pray, when we seek God's face...

-when we confess & abandon our sin God listens, God forgives, God gives grace/his strength

-and he begins to answer our prayers immediately

What God did as an answer to prayer this week...

-since we've begun to pray more purposefully God has been answering our prayers

-someone found a job after looking for a while

-someone sold their house

-someone found an apartment with exactly what they were looking for

-but the greatest answer to prayer is when God changes a heart and this week he did that

-for several years now, there's been someone in our midst who's been cold toward God

-and I'm praying one day soon he'll have the strength to share their testimony

-and the reason they were cold toward God was because of sin in their life

-their sin, led them away from prayer, God's Word, passion, they were miserable, didn't like church

-but two and a half weeks ago a number of people began praying for them

-and this Wednesday in my office they confessed their sin, we prayed

-and ever since God has begun to fan the flame in their hearts for Christ once again

-as I said I look forward to the day he can share his own testimony

-but until then I tell it to say, God is willing to work in our lives right here, right now

-will we let him?

God is willing

-he's willing to touch your heart and change it

-he's willing to free you from any lie that's kept you bound in sin

-he's willing to give you the strength you need if you remain surrendered to do all things in Christ

-he's willing to remove from you the fear that keeps you from coming to him/praying/believing

-he's willing if you will let him, if you will trust him to, if you will believe and if you obey him

Pray