

*The Root
Of
The Problem*

Part IV

2 Chronicles 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people....*

14 *IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME*

will 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.

Week One, We Observed...

Principle #1

*We Will Not See Results Until **The Right People Take Responsibility***

Principle #2

*We Will Not See Results Until **We Follow The Prescription***

Principle #3

*Expect to See Results Because **The Promise Will Be Fulfilled***

Week Two, We Observed

*Are We **IDENTIFYING** As Christians*

*Without Any **IMPACT?***

Last Week We Observed...

The Lack Of Humility, Hinders Our Prayers

*You will never come **BOLDLY FOR HELP**,
If **YOU FEEL** you can handle it **ON YOUR OWN**...*

*If my people, who are called by my name,
WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY...*

*It all begins with **HUMILITY***

What's Next?

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

14 If my people, who are called by my name, **WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY**

The Next Step After **HUMILITY** is **PRAYER**

PRAYER is an **EXPRESSION OF SUBMISSION TO GOD** and **DEPENDENCE UPON HIM**

The things you pray about are the things **YOU TRUST GOD TO HANDLE.**

The things **YOU NEGLECT** to pray about are the things **YOU TRUST YOU CAN HANDLE ON YOUR OWN...**

Prayer reflects **OUR CONFIDENCE** in our Heavenly Father to care for our **NEEDS...**

So if we are **NEGLIGENT** in our **PRAYER LIFE...** Basically we are saying God...**I GOT THIS...**

A Lack Of Humility Will Cause You To Miss Out On A **SPECIAL PRIVILEGE**

We should not view prayer as something **WE HAVE TO DO...** but view it as something **WE GET TO DO...**

We have **ACCESS** to someone **WHO OWNS EVERYTHING AND KNOWS EVERYTHING**

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

16 Let us then **APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE,**
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

What A Privilege To Carry **EVERYTHING** to God in Prayer....

Privileges Of Prayer

Prayer **DOES NOT GUARANTEE** your life will be an unbroken cycle of *health, wealth, success and happiness*.
God is under **NO OBLIGATION** to do whatever we ask...

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NIV)

7 TO KEEP ME FROM BECOMING CONCEITED because of these surpassingly great revelations, *there was given me a thorn in my flesh*, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.** **9 But he said to me**, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that **CHRIST'S POWER MAY REST ON ME.**

2 Samuel 12:15-22 (NIV)

15 After Nathan had gone home, *the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David*, and he became ill. **16 David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground.** **18 On the seventh day the child died.** David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead... **20** Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. **21** His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" **22** He answered, "*While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'WHO KNOWS? THE LORD MAY BE GRACIOUS TO ME AND LET THE CHILD LIVE.'*"

Matthew 26:42, 44, 46 (NIV)

42 He went away a **second time and prayed**, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." **44** So he left them and went away once more and **prayed the third time, saying the same thing.****46 RISE, LET US GO! HERE COMES MY BETRAYER!"**

Privileges Of Prayer

GOD DOES GUARANTEE HE WILL ANSWER... MAY NOT BE IN THE MANNER YOU DESIRE...

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

3 'Call to Me, and *I will answer you*, and **SHOW YOU** great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Application: God will give you **WISDOM and ACCESS** to Divine Knowledge {**INSIGHT**}

Psalm 91:15 (ESV)

15 When he calls to me, *I will answer him*; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

Application: God will give you his Protection and Deliverance

Isaiah 65:24 (ESV)

24 Before they call *I will answer*; while they are yet speaking *I will hear*.

Matthew 6:8 (NIV)

8 ... For your Father knows what you need *before you ask him*.

Application: God **ALREADY** knows what you **NEED**...

He is waiting for you to **ASK...SEEK... KNOCK**

These Are Privileges Giving To Us UNCONDITIONALLY

Privileges Of Prayer

There are some prayer promises that are **CONDITIONAL**....

John 15:7 (NKJV)

7 **IF** you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, **YOU WILL ASK WHAT YOU DESIRE**, and it shall be done for you.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, **WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.**

James 5:16 (NIV)

16 **Therefore confess your sins to each other** and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer **OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN** is **POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.**

Psalms 34:17 (NIV)

17 **THE RIGHTEOUS** cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from **ALL THEIR TROUBLES.**

1 John 5:14 (NIV)

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that **IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL**, he hears us.

Not Getting An Answer....

What Is *Hindering* Your Prayers From Being Answered...

James 4:3 (NIV)

3 When you ask, **you do not receive**, **BECAUSE YOU ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures...

You can have the Prayer rehearsed in your head... But you are not right in your heart
“Nevertheless....Not My Will But Your Will Be Done”...

James 1:6-8 (NIV)

6 But when he asks, **HE MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT**, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man **SHOULD NOT THINK HE WILL RECEIVE ANYTHING** from the Lord...

Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "**Have faith in God**. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and **does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done**, **HE WILL HAVE WHATEVER HE SAYS**. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **BELIEVE THAT YOU RECEIVE THEM, AND YOU WILL HAVE THEM**

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

7 In the same way, you **husbands must give honor to your wives**. **Treat your wife with understanding as you live together**. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life.
Treat her as you should SO YOUR PRAYERS WILL NOT BE HINDERED.

Not Getting An Answer....

God Deal With **MY SITUATION**, **BUT NOT MY SIN**

*God does not answer those who cherish sin in their heart. To **CHERISH SIN** in your heart means **THERE IS A SIN WHICH YOU LOVE SO MUCH THAT YOU WILL NOT GIVE IT UP**. Failure to confess your sins and make things right with God and man is a major cause of unanswered prayer.*

Isaiah 59:1-2 (ESV)

*1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;
2 **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**.*

Psalm 66:18-19 (NIV)

*18 **IF I HAD CHERISHED SIN IN MY HEART**, **THE LORD WOULD NOT HAVE LISTENED**;
19 but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.*

Isaiah 1:15-16 (NIV)

*15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers,
I WILL NOT LISTEN. Your hands are full of blood; 16 wash and make yourselves clean.
TAKE YOUR EVIL DEEDS OUT OF MY SIGHT! STOP DOING WRONG,*

John 11:41-42 (NIV)

*41 Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.
42 **I KNEW THAT YOU ALWAYS HEAR ME**, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here,
that they may believe that you sent me."*

2 Chronicles Connection....

Humble Yourself and Pray... Seek My Face.... Turn From Wicked Ways

Ask, Seek, and Knock

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

*7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Ask ~ Prayer, Dialogue with God

This is the verbal action done with the mouth...

Seek ~ Persistently and Passionately Look For Him

This is the mind setting priorities and focusing the heart

Knock ~ The Action Required To Obtain The Request

This is the physical action necessary to make it happen

In Conclusion...

When We Pray... We Tell God

I Need You

I Trust You

I Am Depending On You

Next....

I will Seek Your Face and

*I Am Willing To Turn From **My** Wicked Ways*