

**August 29**

**Jeremiah 29:12 (AMP)** Then you will call on Me and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear [your voice] and I will listen to you. **Matthew 21:22 (NASB)** [Jesus said,] **“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”**

The beginning of school can be a hectic time as everyone focuses on being ready when the students arrive. This particular day was filled with calls and texts containing requests that needed to be met immediately. As I moved from one item to another, I began to feel overwhelmed. I cried out to the Lord for His help and release, but it did not seem as if anything was changing. Toward the end of the day, I got a call from our alarm company. There was a breach of our front door, which is seldom used. I called Carol but got no answer. I jumped into the car and headed home when the Sheriff's Department called. Did I want them to send a car? I asked them to wait as I was on my way. Not long after, I got through to Carol. She had been gone all day with a friend and did not have the garage door opener, so she had to enter through the front door. All was good, so I turned around to head back to school. In the midst of a most hectic day, this was not for what I had prayed.

Had the Lord not heard my prayers? If so, had He ignored them? I turned around to head back to school. I had asked Carol what she would have done if the sheriff had arrived, and she said, “I would have said hello and visited with them.” I smiled then because that is exactly what she would have done. I thanked God for my wife. I thanked Him that she had a fun day with a good friend. I thanked Him that she is home safe. When I reached the school, all the tension was gone. A smile had replaced the stern look of concentration. There was a lightness in my step that had not been there before. God had heard and answered my prayer, but not in the way I had wanted. God knows what we need before we do. He knew the best way to answer my cry for help, but that answer was not what I had expected. When that happens, we can ignore the answer, reject it outright, complain about it, or accept it. That was one of the most amazing answers to a prayer I have had, and, to this day, it still brings a smile to my face. May the Holy Spirit give us the wisdom to discern the Lord's answers. We can expect an answer; we just cannot expect it come wrapped the way we want.