

11:41-42

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” He is praying publically...honestly...for a show.

Sometimes you simply build the faith of those listening to you. There is never a prayer prayed from the lips of Jesus that are not answered by the Father. Every time the Son spoke, it was with the confidence that the Father heard Him. He was ever confident heard His prayers and He was thankful for it. **43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”** God answering His Son’s prayers is based on His perfection and the Father’s love for His Son as He, even today, prays on behalf of those once dead, and are now to be brought back to life.

Most everything, as seen in verse 22-25, in John’s Gospel has both a surface, obvious fulfillment and a second, spiritual fulfillment. Consider John 5:24-29 and the “will be and now is” of death in the beginning of the spiritual reality of 11:25. Here, then, Christ is not merely saying “Father, thank you for hearing my prayer about Lazarus, but also, thank you for giving me authority to give life to all those who have given me” (John 5:25-27 and 17:2). We must then **thank** God with Jesus that His prayer was answered. We are, after all, a part of this answer to prayer (17:20).

Furthermore, if you are saved today as you were a year ago...it is because Jesus’ prayer is answered (17:11). It is why we shall never be lost. Hallelujah! The reason we are believers today—if we have ever been believers—is because we were prayed for by the Son, and the Son gets that for which He asks. And we thank the Father with the Son.