

***What Happens When We Pray?
God The Father's Role In Prayer!***

Introduction:

1. What Happens When We Pray?
 - A Lot!
 - Four Roles In Prayer:
 - A Christian's Role Is To Ask In Prayer!
 - The Holy Spirit's Role Is To Help Our Prayer!
 - Christ's Role Is To Perfect Our Prayer!
2. What Is God The Father's Role In Prayer?
 - Psalm 17:6 - "I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech!"
 - We Can Sum Up Our Heavenly Father's Role In Prayer In This Way: He Hears!
 - But What Is Involved When Our Father Hears Our Prayer?
 - This Is What We Will Look At Tonight!
 - But How Should The Father's Role In Prayer Affect Our Own Prayers To Him?
3. The Fact That God Hears Prayer Ought To Motivate And Encourage Us To Pray!
 - **IE:** If I Had A Direct Line To The President Of The United States, And I Knew For A Fact That He Would Hear What I Had To Say & Even Consider What I Had To Say, I Would Pick Up That Phone An Awful Lot – Wouldn't You?
 - To Pray More In Time!
 - To Pray More In Intensity And Earnestness!
4. In Fact, All Of The Roles That God Has In Prayer – The Father's Role / The Son's Role / And The Holy Spirit's Role – Should All Motivate And Encourage Us To Fulfill **Our** Role In Prayer!
 - Especially As We Begin To Understand The Tremendous Privilege We Have As Christians To Communicate And Fellowship With Our Great, Triune God!
5. So, What Is All Involved In The Father's Role In Prayer?
 - Who Will God The Father Hear?
 - When Will God The Father Hear?
 - Why Will God The Father Hear?
 - Where Will God The Father Hear?
 - How Will God The Father Hear?
 - These Are The Questions We Seek To Answer As We Discover God The Father's Role In Prayer!

* We First Come To 2 Chronicles 7:12-14, And See:

1. ***An Explanation Of The Father's Role In Prayer!***
 - Here, The Lord Himself Is Explaining To Solomon And Describing His Role Of Hearing In Prayer!
 - Who Will God The Father Hear?
 - 7:14a - "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways!"
 - His People! His Children! Those Who Believe In Him & In His Son! Those Who Are Called By His Name! (Especially Now – "Christian") Those Who Have A Heart And Attitude Of Humility, Seeking And Repentance!
 - God Does Not Hear For What We Do, But For Who We Are!
 - A Person, Though, With This Heart & Attitude Possesses A Character Of Righteousness!
 - It Does Not Mean That All His Works Are Right, But That His Heart Is Right, Because Of Christ's Work In His Heart!
 - The "Prayer Of A Righteous Man Availeth Much" (James 5:16), Not Because Of Our Own Righteous Works, But Because "The Lord Is Far From The Wicked; But He Heareth The Prayer Of The Righteous!" (Proverbs 15:29)
 - We Do Not Become Righteous Through What We Do; We Are Made Righteous Through What Christ Has Done!
 - This Is Who God The Father Will Hear!

- When Will God The Father Hear?
 - 7:13 Describes Great Calamity From God's Own Judgment And His Rod Of Correction - "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people!"
 - Drought; Devouring; Disease!
 - In Times Of Distress And Dependence!
 - When God's People Pray And Ask Out Of Need And Necessity, God Will Hear – Because Their Hearts Are In It & Their Trust Is In Him!
 - When Prayer Becomes "Optional" – When We Think There Is No Need – When We Think We Can Handle Things – Not Only Will We Probably Not Pray, But When We Do Pray, They Will Be Empty And Vain Prayers!
 - Matthew 6:7 - "Vain repetitions . . . they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking!"
 - This Is When God The Father Will Hear!
- Why Will God The Father Hear?
 - 7:15-16 - "Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually!"
 - For His Own Glory And The Honor Of His Name!
 - In The Temple!
 - 7:16 - He Will Hear The Prayers From The Temple Because He Has Made It His Temple!
 - He Has "Chosen And Sanctified This House, That My Name May Be There For Ever!"
 - In His People!
 - He Will Hear The Prayers From His People, Because He Has Made Them His Temple!
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth!"
 - This Is Why God The Father Will Hear!
- Where Will God The Father Hear?
 - 7:14b - "Then will I hear from Heaven!"
 - The Prayers Of God's Own People Are Able To Cross The Vast Expanse Of Space And Even Time To Enter The Very Presence Of God In Heaven – His Own Throne & His Own Home!
 - From Heaven He Rules!
 - From Heaven He Reigns!
 - And From Heaven, He Hears – Us! Amazing!
 - This Is Where God The Father Will Hear!
- How Will God The Father Hear?
 - 7:14c - "And will forgive their sin, and will heal their land!"
 - Not Only Does God Hear Prayer, He Does Something With Prayer!
 - He Will Not "Turn A Deaf Ear" To The Prayers And Petitions Of His People That Have Been Offered To Him With The Help Of His Holy Spirit & Perfected By His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Not Only Does He Hear Prayer – He Honors Prayer – And He Answers Prayer!
 - Here, He Will "Forgive Their Sin" (Because "He Is Faithful And Just" To Do So) And Will "Heal Their Land!"
 - Providing For Their Deepest Needs & Not Ignoring Their Trust In Him!
 - This Is How God The Father Will Hear!
- * Psalm 17:6 - "I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech!"
 - Do You Trust In God To Hear Your Prayer? Then Call Upon Him And Pray!

* Next, We Come To Daniel 9, And See:

2. ***An Example Of The Father's Role In Prayer!***

- This Is An Example Of Both The Substance Of & The Solution To This "Prayer Of A Righteous Man" – Daniel!

- Who Will God The Father Hear?
 - A Child Of God Who Comes To Him With A Heart And Attitude Of Humility, Seeking And Repentance!
 - We See This In Daniels Prayer – A Peek Into His Own Soul!
 - Humility & Confession - 9:5!
 - Seeking - 9:16-19 - “O!” - Verse 19 Completely!
 - If This Is Not The Language Of Someone Intensely Seeking The Lord With His Whole Heart, I Don’t Know What Is!
 - Repentance & Brokenness - 9:7!
 - “We Deserve What We Got & More! All You Have Done To Correct Us Is Righteous & Just!”
 - Psalm 34:17 - “The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles!”
 - This Is Who’s Prayer The Father Will Hear!
- When Will God The Father Hear?
 - In Times Of Distress & Dependence!
 - 9:16 - They Were Experiencing As A Nation The “Anger” And The “Fury” Of The Lord! So, Daniel Prayed!
 - Prayer Was No “Option” For Daniel – It Was An “Obligation” – For His Own Need & The Needs Of His People!
 - Daniel’s Prayer Was A Prayer Of Distress!
 - He Knew That “The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee!” (Psalm 20:1) – So He Turned His Distress Over His Circumstances Into Dependence In The Lord!
 - The Father Will Hear Us When We Turn Our Distress Over Our Own Circumstances Into Dependence And Trust In The Lord Through Prayer!
 - Daniel’s Prayer Was A Prayer Of Dependence!
 - He Knew Where He Must Turn! He Knew Who He Must Go To! Because He Knew Who He Could Trust!
 - This Is When The Father Will Hear Your Prayer!
 - When You Turn Your Distress Over Your Circumstances Into Dependence In The Lord!
- Why Will God The Father Hear?
 - Not Only Because Of His Glory, But Also Because Of His Mercy!
 - 9:18!
 - We Saw Earlier That: God Does Not Hear For What We Do, But For Who We Are – As His Own Children, Saved By Grace Through Faith!
 - Here We Take A Step Further Back And See That: God Does Not Hear For What We Do, But For Who *He* Is!
 - He “Inclines His Ear And Hears” Because He Is A God Of Great Mercy!
 - Mercy Is God Not Giving To Us What We Truly Deserve!
 - And God Is Rich In Mercy!
 - Psalm 69:13 - “But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation!”
 - This Is Why The Father Will Hear Your Prayer!
 - Because Of Who He Is!
- Where Will God The Father Hear?
 - From Heaven!
 - Yet, Through Prayer, Truly “Heaven Comes Down & Glory Fills Our Soul!”
 - Consider Daniel 9:20-23!
 - God Sent His Own Messenger, Gabriel, From Heaven In Answer To Daniel’s Prayer!
 - When God Hears From Heaven, He Sends Help From Heaven!
 - What An Overwhelming Thought!
 - If I Ask For Help From Someone Here On Earth, I Might Get Some Kind Of Limited, Earthly Help! But, The Father’s Heavenly Help Is All-Sufficient To Meet And Exceed the Needs That Brought Us To Prayer In The First Place!

- This Is Where The Father Will Hear Your Prayer – Heaven Itself!
 - How Will God The Father Hear?
 - He Hears Prayer, Honors Prayer & Answers Prayer:
 - Promptly! “Whiles” (9:20, 21) / “At The Beginning” (9:23)
 - Passionately! “Thou Art Greatly Beloved!” (9:23)
 - Perceptively! “Therefore Understand The Matter; And Consider The Vision!” (9:23)
 - The Lord “Giveth Grace” And Understanding And Perception As He Hears, Honors And Answers Your Prayer!
 - This Is How The Father Will Hear Your Prayer!
- * Psalm 17:6 - “I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech!”

Conclusion:

1. You Can Go To Our Heavenly Father With Confidence That He Hears Your Prayer!
 - Psalm 34:4-6 Teaches This Also - “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles!”
2. Your Role In Prayer Is To Ask In Prayer!
 - The Holy Spirit’s Role In Prayer Is To Help Your Prayer!
 - Christ’s Role In Prayer Is To Perfect Your Prayer!
 - And The Father’s Role In Prayer Is To Hear Your Prayer!
3. Do You Trust In Your Heavenly Father To Hear Your Prayer?
 - Let This Encourage You & Motivate You To Call Upon Him And Pray!

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