

THE MOTIVE NEEDED FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

John 14:13 and Selected Texts

Ever felt like you were trying to juggle all the different parts of prayer, looking to find the right combination necessary for answered prayer? The Bible does say that there are several elements required for our prayers to be answered, but it's possible to do all the right things and still not receive the desired answered. Our problem often is, in the words of James 4:3, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives." What is the right motive? Jesus says in John 14:13 that the motive of our every prayer should be concern for the glory of God.

I. THE MOTIVE OF JESUS' LIFE WAS HIS CONCERN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

A. We see it illustrated in His own relationship with the Father

See Jn. 12:27-28, 13:31-32, and 17:1

B. We see it illustrated in His teaching

See Mt. 5:16 and 6:9-13

C. We see it illustrated in the results of His ministry

See Lk. 5:24-26, 7:15-16, 13:112-13, 17:17-18, and 18:42-43

II. THE MOTIVE OF OUR EVERY PRAYER SHOULD BE CONCERN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

See Jesus' teaching in Jn. 14:13.

Notice how concern for the glory of God was modeled in prayers by Elijah in 1 Kin. 18:36-37, by David in Ps. 37:4, and by Asaph in Ps. 79:9.

What is our usual motive when we pray? Is it revealed in Jas. 4:3, "You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures"? In other words, we may do everything else right in prayer, but if our motive is selfish then we won't get the desired answer. It is even possible (and common!) to pray selfishly for *good* things, things we *should* pray for. We can pray for revival, for someone's health, for someone's salvation, for someone to be blessed, etc., all because *we* would like to see it done.

The right and only motive for answered prayer is concern for the glory of God.

MORE APPLICATION

- 1. Praying with concern for God's glory as our motive will sometimes be difficult to do sincerely.***
- 2. Praying with concern for God's glory as our motive is a reality when we're willing for God to withhold the answer if that would bring Him more glory.***
- 3. Praying with concern for God's glory as our motive is just as valid in praying for ordinary, little things as in praying for big things.***
- 4. Praying with concern for God's glory as our motive gives us words to pray when we do not know God's will in a matter.***
- 5. Praying with concern for God's glory as our motive will bring more peace and rest into our praying.***