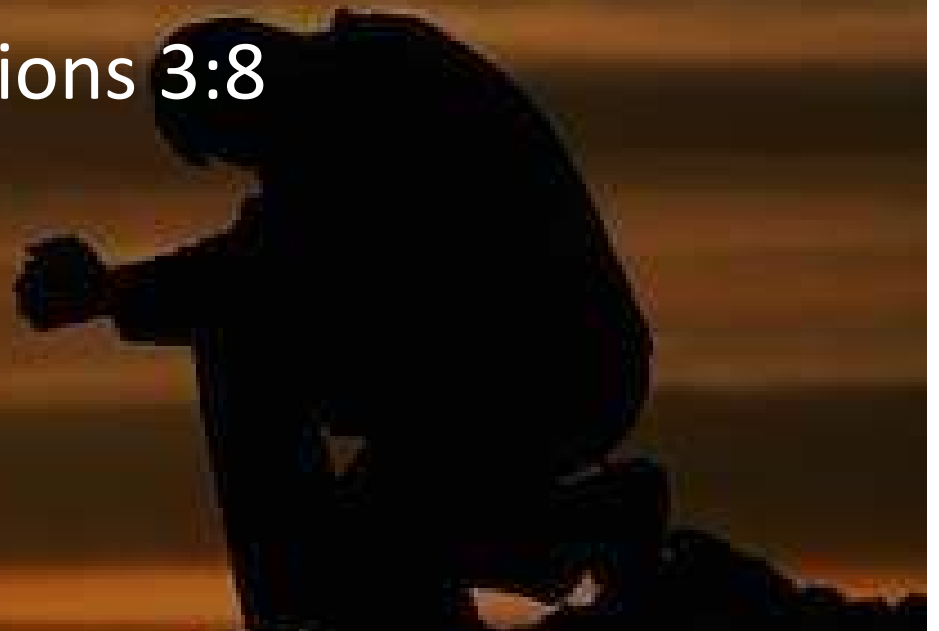


“He Shuts Out My Prayer!”

Lamentations 3:8



“He Shuts Out My Prayer!”

- Lam. 3:8 - “Even when I cry and shout, He shuts out my prayer.”
- Psalm 66:20 - “Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!”



“He Shuts Out My Prayer!”

- Statistics state that 78% of all Americans pray at least once a week
- 57% pray at least once a day
- Serious and consistent prayer usually begins after age 30 when the illusion that we are masters of our own fate fades.
- Everyone knows that prayer is powerful
 - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”

What Prayer Will Do

- Prayer can strengthen the soul
 - Psalm 138:1-3 - “I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You. 2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your loving kindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. 3 In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul.”

What Prayer Will Do

- Prayer can be a source of stability and preservation
 - Psalm 121:2-3 - “My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.”
- Prayer can impart peace
 - Phil. 4:6-7 - “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.”

What Prayer Will Do

- Prayer will access the blessings of God for His children
 - Matt. 7:7-11 - “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”
 - Phil. 4:19 - “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

What Prayer Will Do

- Prayer is answered according to the will of God
 - 1John 5:14 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
- God knows what we need
 - Matt. 6:8, 32 - “For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him... 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”

What Prayer Will Do

- Prayer petitions forgiveness
 - 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 - 1John 2:1-2 - “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

What Prayer Will Do

- Intercessory prayers of Christians can impact the lives of others
 - Rom. 15:30-31 - “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, 31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints”

What Prayer Will Do

- Intercessory prayers of Christians can impact the lives of others
 - Eph. 1:16-18 - “do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”

What Prayer Will Do

- Intercessory prayers of Christians can impact the lives of others
 - Phil. 1:9-11 - “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”
 - Col. 4:3 - “meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains”

What Prayer Will Do

- Intercessory prayers of Christians can impact the lives of others
 - 1Tim. 2:1-3 - “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer alone will not save the lost.
 - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
 - Acts 2:14 - “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer will not relieve us of our responsibilities.
 - James 1:27 - “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”
 - Gal. 6:1-2 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
 - 2Cor. 7:1 - “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer will not convey faith.
 - Acts 16:30-31 - “And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer will not keep Christians from trials
 - Difficulties often serve as a means of growth - James 1:2-4
 - Difficulties remind us to prepare for heaven - 1Peter 1:3-7
 - Difficulties are often just part of the world we live in - Ecc. 9:11
 - God promised a way of escape - 1Cor. 10:13



What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer will not reveal the will of the Lord.
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - 2Tim. 3:15-17 - “and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer will not save erring Christians
 - John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”



What Prayer Will Not Do

- Prayer will not always be answered the way we expect
 - Mark 10:38 - “But Jesus said to them, You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”
 - Rom. 8:26-27 - “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- We have no assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered apart from a faithful relationship with God
 - Psalm 145:18-19 - “The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.”
 - Prov. 15:29 - “The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- We have no assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered apart from a faithful relationship with God
 - Jer. 29:12 - “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.”
 - John 15:7 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

What Prayer Will Not Do

- We have no assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered apart from a faithful relationship with God
 - 1John 3:22 - “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”
 - 1John 5:14 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

Lessons

- Prayer was designed by God for a purpose, a purpose it accomplishes to the fullest extent God intended for it
- If prayer falls short of our expectations for it, then our expectations differ from God's purpose for prayer
- We need to bring our understanding of prayer to His purpose. When we do so, our prayer life will be a blessed and cherished part of our day