

Job 8.5-7—Seeking God in Prayer

Take heart! God stands *ready* to hear you.

- I. God is accessible to sinners.
 - A. In Christ, the throne of glory has become a throne of grace, Heb 4.16; 2Cor 5.19
 - B. Whatever distance there is between you and God, prayer bridges that gap and brings you to God.
- II. God is a sin-forgiving God.
 - A. He's never changed the name He proclaimed to Moses, Ex 34.6-7
 - B. Prayer's been given to us by God particularly for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness, Mt 6.9-12. We pray to God because there is forgiveness with God, Ps 130.4
- III. God is infinitely all-sufficient.
 - A. All flesh could come to Him simultaneously and ask for the same thing and He could supply all of them—and more, Ps 65.2
 - B. God's store is inexhaustible. Ask what you will, Jn 16.24
- IV. God is a compassionate God.
 - A. He doesn't answer prayer because it's deserved. He answers prayer because it pleases Him. He doesn't answer prayer based on how well or poorly we've done. He answers because He's compassionate and merciful, Ps 103.13
 - B. The chokehold on prayer is in us, not in God, Isa 65.24
- V. God is omnipotent and infinite in power.
 - A. Nothing is too hard for God, Mt 19.26. There isn't a broken heart He can't heal, a hardened sinner He can't convert, a sin in your life He can't overcome. So cast all your cares on Him, 1Pet 5.7
- VI. God is omniscient and knows all things.
 - A. He can make sense of your sighs and groans. He can hear the prayers you pray when your lips never move, Ps 139.23

Be bold! God is *willing* to answer you.

- I. The fact that we have a desire to pray to God is an assurance that He's willing to answer us.
 - A. Where do you think that desire came from? God put it there, Zech 12.10; Acts 9.11; Gal 4.6. If God gave us a Spirit of prayer then it pleases Him to hear and answer our prayers, Isa 45.19
- II. The fact that God made intercession such a large part of the work of our Saviour is an assurance that He's willing to answer us.

- A. Christ is seated on the throne as our Intercessor, Jn 17.9; Heb 7.25
 - B. If Christ has been exalted to present our prayers to the Father, then we can be sure God intends to answer them, Jn 11.42
- III. All the promises of God's faithfulness in the covenant of grace are an assurance that God's willing to answer us, Mt 7.7-8; Ps 145.19; Zech 10.6
 - A. It's one central part of the covenant of grace made with us in Jesus that we have access to the throne of God, where He's willing to hear our prayers.
- IV. God's own gracious relationships toward us are an assurance that He's willing to answer our prayers, Mt 7.9-11
 - A. God has the heart of a bountiful father and compassionate mother towards us. He withholds nothing good from us, Ps 84.11. Such assurances should make us bold in prayer.

Have faith! God *will* arise for you.

- I. This was at the heart of Bildad's encouragement, cf. Heb 11.6
 - A. Believing prayer awakens God and brings in His help, v.6.
 - B. Of course God never sleeps, Ps 121.4. But there are times when He appears to be sleeping. And it's in those times that believing prayer awakens Him. God always hears the prayer of faith.
 - C. His sleep is our invitation to pray in faith, Isa 62.6-7; Mk 7.28
 - D. Pray with a promise in hand and God *will* wake from sleep.

Fret not! God *knows* how to answer prayer.

- I. It's strange how one of the things that keeps us from praying to God is we're not sure we want His help. We know how we want the situation to turn out, but we're not so sure God agrees.
 - A. How foolish of us! The infinitely wise God knows best. His plans always work out in the end. They can't be improved upon.
 - B. So fret not. Go ahead and lay all your cares at God's feet.
- II. And God will answer in one of two ways: either with what we ask or better, cf. 1Sam 1; 2Cor 12
 - A. So pray to God and ask for *His* will to be done. And when He does it, rejoice in it, because whatever He gave you was best.
- III. Seek God in prayer; and as you do, Take heart! Be bold! Have faith! Fret not! for He will rouse for you; He will come to your aid.