

pend upon God to give us the results in answer to prayer.

We must remember that God can use means. God can use medicines and doctors to heal the sick. Luke was "the beloved physician" (Col. 4:14). Timothy was commanded to "use a little wine [grape juice] for thy stomach's sake" (I Tim. 5:23). King Hezekiah was healed when Isaiah commanded to place a lump of figs on the boil, which was about to kill him (Isa. 38:21). God can use means, and He may answer our prayers by using human means. He may use an employment agency to give us a job by our diligent application and seeking. He may use our hard work on the farm to make a crop. Certain it is that when God takes charge, He can bring the results out of our poor labors. But remember this, that God does not always use human means. Sometimes through ways utterly unexpected and without human instrumentalities, God chooses to work His will in answer to prayer. God can heal the sick without medicine, and sometimes He delights to do it that way in answer to prayer. God can give jobs where you do not have an application in. God can send money that you didn't earn. How well I know, thank God, from blessed experiences that this is true! But the point is that whether God uses well-known means or does it by ways utterly unexpected or even by ways impossible with men, still it is God who gives what we need. And the way for us to get what we need is to ask for it. Praying is God's appointed way for a Christian to have what he needs and what he wants. Every other way may fail. "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

Suppose there are two men in conversation, one a lost man, the other a saved man, a child of God. The unconverted man says, "These are surely hard times. I can't get a job. I have walked until my feet are sore. I have answered all the advertisements. I just don't get the breaks." And suppose the Christian man answered, "Yes, these surely are hard times. I have walked until my feet are sore too. I have answered all the advertisements in the papers, and yet I can't find a job. You are right. A poor man just doesn't have a chance these days." God forbid! Has the Christian no more resources than a lost man? What good is it to be a Christian if you have no one to answer your prayers, no one to care for your needs, no one to give you what you want! There is no joy, there is no testimony, there is no victory in that kind of Christianity. Thank God, a Christian can confidently pray and say, "My Father, You know I need a job. Everything in the world is in Your hands. So I ask You to give me, Your child, a job so I can have daily bread, so I can care for my family, so I can give to others, and so others may know that God takes care of His children." And for millions God has answered such prayers.

The God who notes the fall of every sparrow, who has clothed the lilies of the field in raiment more gorgeous than Solomon's, who counts all the hairs in the heads of His beloved children for whom Christ died, that heavenly Father has appointed that His children get things by prayer. "Ye have not, because ye ask not."

Praying is God's appointed way for Christians to get things.

— excerpted from *Prayer: Asking and Receiving*, by John R. Rice



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CLASS HANDOUT CHAPTER NINE, PART 1



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FILL IN THE BLANKS

COVERING DANIEL 9:1—23

1. Did you read chapter nine in advance? Y / N
2. This chapter is important for two different things:
 1. _____
 2. _____
3. Daniel had been reading in the book of the prophet _____.
4. Israel's Babylonian captivity would last how many years? _____.
5. Jeremiah prophesied that someone would _____, and then God would turn away their captivity.
6. How many years had the "land—sabbaths" been ignored? _____.
7. Daniel set himself to make the prayer for the nation that Jeremiah had specified. T / F
8. Israel had been cursed. T / F
9. Bible reference for the curse? _____.
10. God tells Israel of both a curse and a _____.
11. Leviticus 26:40-45 pronounces the curse. T / F

12. Prayer should be praise and thanksgiving. Not making objective requests for things. T / F
13. Daniel's supplication is focused on (choose three)
 1. The restoration of the temple.
 2. Food for starving Jews in Babylon.
 3. The salvation of the king of Babylon.
 4. The city of Jerusalem.
 5. Compassion for the trans-sexual community.
 6. The holy people.
14. Daniel seems to be praying in such a way that it would restore the covenant between God and His people. T / F
15. Opinion only: If Daniel thought he was fulfilling prophecy in this prayer, imagine what must have been going through his heart and mind.
16. Daniel discovered his prayer was being answered in the (morning, lunchtime, evening, middle of the night): Which?
17. What was he doing when he learned it? _____.
18. Since God knows what we need, there should be no need for us to ask. That is, if He knows, He's already going to take care of it. T / F
19. The most difficult prayer promise I know is _____.

PRAYER IS GOD'S APPOINTED WAY FOR CHRISTIANS TO GET THINGS

By Evangelist John R. Rice (1895-1980)

The outside, unbelieving world expects to get things by work or by planning or by scheming or by accident, but God's children are taught that they are to get things by asking and that the reason we do not have is that we do not ask.

James 4:2 says,

"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

"Ye have not, because ye ask not"! Fighting, warring, struggling and scheming—these are not God's ways for a Christian to get things. We are to get by asking. And the reason we have not is not "because ye work not," nor is it "because ye plan not." No, it is "because ye ask not." Asking is God's way for a Christian to get things!

You may say that the way for a farmer to grow a crop is to break his ground, sow his seed, plow out the weeds; in other words, that the way to have a crop would be by diligent and intelligent work. But I have seen farmers who worked hard and intelligently, and then there was no rain, and they made no crop! Or storms beat down the wheat before it could

be harvested, or boll weevils and pink boll worms ruined the cotton. So human wisdom and human toil cannot be relied upon. No, a Christian is not to depend upon his own toil nor his own planning but to ask of God. To the farmer God's Word says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." Asking, or in other words, prayer, is God's way for a farmer to succeed.

An unemployed man may think the way to get a job is to make the rounds of all the employment agencies, to take special training for his job, or to get recommendations by men in high places in business. But I have known men to tramp the weary rounds day after day, making applications, only to hear always the same story, "We have all the men we can use," or "too old," or "We only hire men with special training which you do not have," or "We will put you on our waiting list." I say that human efforts to get a job often fail. But, thank God, a Christian has other resources; he can pray and get a job from God! Let us add one explanatory word to the Scripture without changing its meaning at all, and God says,

"Ye have not a job because ye ask not for one." Asking is the way to get a job.

In Jackson, Michigan, in 1940 as I preached on prayer, I felt suddenly impressed to speak to a young man on the second seat. Pointing my finger to him publicly, I said, "Have you got a job?" He replied that he did not have.

"If God would give you a job, would you really serve Him with all your heart?" I asked.

He responded, "Yes, I would! And I sure need one."

"Then you go to God tonight and ask Him for a job, and I will pray with you about it," I said. "You say to God, 'Lord, if there is anything in my life that displeases You, if You will show me, I will confess and forsake it. If there is anything wrong with this request for a job, You show me, and I will change my prayer to fit the leading of the Holy Spirit. And if You do not definitely show me what is wrong or lead me to pray otherwise, I am going to expect a job right away in answer to this prayer.'"

The next night he was in the service, and again in the midst of the sermon I felt impressed to speak to him. "Have you got that job yet?" I asked.

"Not yet," he said. But his wife spoke up quickly and said, "You have too; you worked all day today."

"But it is not the job I asked for, and it is not permanent," he replied.

Then I urged him, "Tonight you go to a secret place alone and stay there until God gives you assurance about this matter, and I will pray with you."

The services closed, and I returned to my home in Wheaton. The next week there came a wonderful letter from this young man, telling how he had gotten just the job he had asked for, in the plant and in the department and under the boss which he had specified in his request to God. With overflowing heart he said, "I wish I could tell everybody that the way to get what they need is to ask God for it!"

The Saviour taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11). The way to get daily bread is to ask God for it.

This does not mean that God wants a Christian to loaf. In fact, the right kind of praying will make a Christian willing to work or to do anything God leads him to do. But it certainly does mean that we should not depend upon our work, but rather, we should de-