



God Responds to this in PRAYER.

Lesson Focus: God desires to take care of our needs. We should commit to praying prayers that reflect our need and the needs of others. Needs are different from wants.

Scripture Focus: Acts 9:8-18

And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou

mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Saul prayed as a Pharisee...

Saul's was a devout member of the Pharisees. There are a number of scriptures describing Pharisees boasting of the regularity, number, and length of their prayers and habitually repeated prayers. Each Pharisee spent nine hours a day in prayer. Their prayers included 1 hour of actual prayer and true supplication, 1 hour of sitting still before they prayed, and 1 hour of sitting still after prayer. This type of prayer was done three times a day.

Scripture clearly shows, until our prayers are prayed with a broken-heart and with confession of sin, the Lord will not consider our prayers. Saul's prayer as a Pharisee went unanswered.

Luke 18:10-14

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

A second critical reason we know Saul's prayers were not considered while a Pharisees is due to not praying in the name of Jesus and not believing in Jesus teachings.

John 14:6

*Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

Finding a response to your prayer....

Real prayer must be *spiritual*; and Saul's prayers had not been heartfelt, with repentance nor directed to Jesus. His prayers were just words with a large body of physical devotion. Real prayers are the confession of sin, the longing for mercy, the groaning for grace—these are prayers of need. God did not consider Saul's prayers until he expressed and prayed for his needs in Acts 9:11 *And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth...*

We are motivated to pray when we have deep needs. When we become new in Christ we practice a more consistent prayer life because we are like new babies desiring comfort and a deep need for a relationship with our Father (God). Throughout Scripture, we discover that God hears and responds to prayers of need and is the only one who can fulfill true need in our lives.

Real needs in our Earthly life can be compared to needs in our Spiritual life. This comparison can help us understand what and how we should focus when we pray for ourselves and for others in our life.

<u>Natural Needs</u>	<u>Spiritual Needs</u>
Oxygen	Life
Food	Word of God
Water	Holy Spirit
Shelter/Protection	The Church
Love	God
Growth	Spiritual Maturity
Sleep	Rest/Sound Mind

Paul did not really offer prayers that were heard until he realized the needs he had in his life. He cried out, *“Lord, I need many things. It is not one thing that I am devoid of, but many things. I need a new heart and a right spirit: I need truth in the hidden parts, I need to know your wisdom.”* He had nothing to boast of: He would cry, *“Lord, give me my sight again, but specially grant me my spiritual sight. Take away the scales from my heart as well as from my eyes. Help me to see Jesus as my Saviour!”*

CLOSING

A prayer that is prayed according to need is a prayer that God will hear and respond to in a supernatural way. Start praying prayers of need more than prayers of want and you will experience real growth in your prayer life. Prayers of need are heard, are according to God’s will and He will always respond.

Phil 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

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