

Acceptable Prayer

1. WHAT is prayer?—Prayer is the sincere desire of the soul expressed; the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Ps. 62:8. Note 1.
2. Will God hear when we pray? Ps. 3:4; 34:4, 6.
3. What is the first step in offering acceptable prayer? Heb. 11:6.
4. What is the basis of true prayer? John 15:7. Note 2.
5. What should be our state of mind in regard to all things asked for? Luke 22:42.
6. Might we desire and ask for the wrong things? James 4:3.
7. With what confidence should we come to God? Mark 1:24; Matt. 7:7-12. Note 3.
8. Should we doubt that God hears simply because we do not see an immediate answer? James 1:6.
9. When will God refuse to hear us? Ps. 66:18; Isa. 59:2.
10. What shall we do when we find ourselves holding to something that is not in harmony with God's ways?
11. Will God hear us when we deal unjustly with others? Mark 11:25, 26.
12. What is forgiveness?—Treating an offender as though he had not committed offense. Example: Matt. 18:23-35; 5:23, 24.
13. How often should we pray? Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17, 18; Rom. 12:12. Note 4.
14. What prayer habits should be formed? Ps. 5:3; 55:17.
15. Have we a record of any one's asking and not receiving? 2 Cor. 12:7-9. Note 5.
16. What did Jesus say to do when trials press us? Luke 18:1-7.
17. Who is mentioned as an example of acceptable prayer? James 5:17, 18.

Notes on Reading No. 27

NOTE 1.—“Prayer is not the overcoming of God's *reluctance*; it is the taking hold of God's *willingness*.' 'Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.' Prayer does not change God; but it does change *us* and our *relation* to God. It places us in the channel of blessings, and in that frame of mind in which God can consistently and safely grant our requests.”—“*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*,” p. 604.

NOTE 2.—“How shall we pray so as to be heard and to receive help? For one thing, there must be a real desire in our hearts. Forms of words do not make prayer: we must want something, and must realize our dependence upon God for it.”—J. R. Miller, D. D.

NOTE 3.—“The importunate widow got her request because of her persistence. God wants us to *seek* Him, and to seek Him *earnestly*, when we pray. He is a rewarder of them that *diligently* seek Him. Heb. 11:6.”—“*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*,” p. 612.

NOTE 4.—“This does not mean that we should be constantly bowed before God in prayer, but that we should not *neglect* prayer, and that we should *ever be in a prayerful frame of mind*, even when walking by the way or engaged in the duties of life,—every ready to send up our petitions to heaven for help in time of need.”—*Id.*, p. 608.

NOTE 5.—“Paul's affliction, it seems, was impaired sight. Acts 9:8, 9, 18; 22:11-13. The retaining of this imperfection would be a constant reminder to him of his conversion, and hence a blessing in disguise.”—*Id.*, p. 612.