

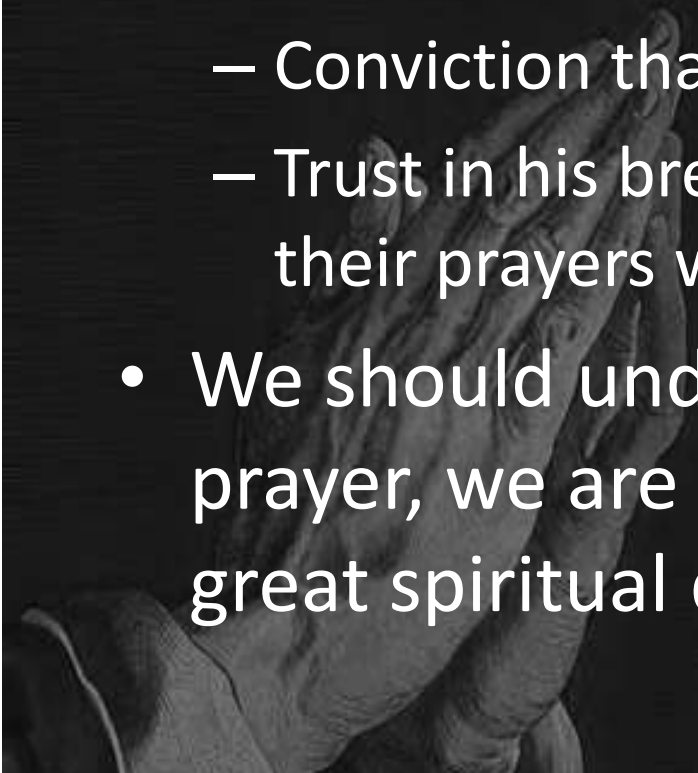
“Please Pray for Me”

1Thes. 5:25 - “Brethren, pray for us.”



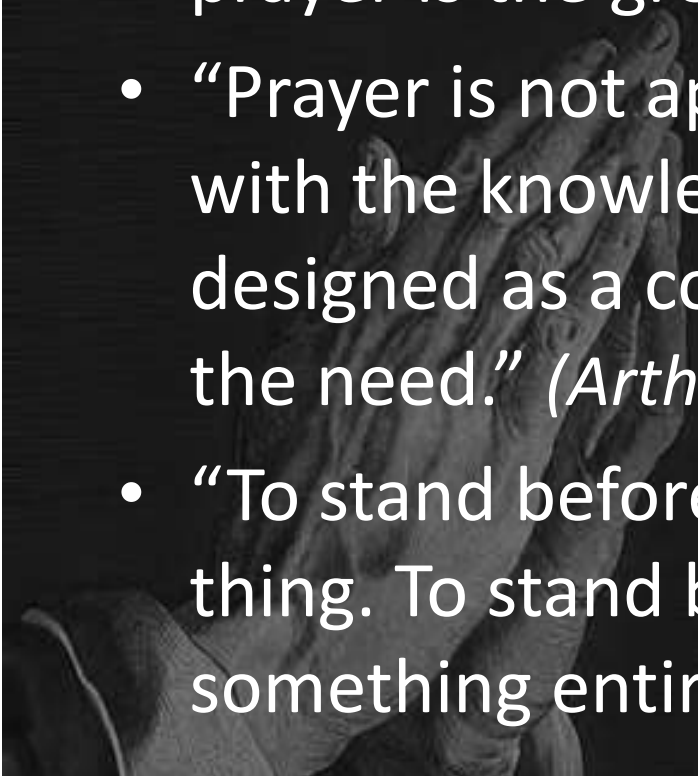
“Please Pray for Me”

- In asking for prayer, Paul acknowledged his:
 - Need for Divine help
 - Dependence upon God’s Providence
 - Conviction that God answers prayer
 - Trust in his brethren to live righteously so that their prayers would be heard
- We should understand that when we ask for prayer, we are communicating to others a great spiritual desire.



“Please Pray for Me”

- Intercessory prayer is a blessing and a duty, a gift and a burden, a power and a vulnerability.
- “Prayer does not equip us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” (*Oswald Chambers*)
- “Prayer is not appointed for the furnishing of God with the knowledge of what we need, but it is designed as a confession to Him of our sense of the need.” (*Arthur W. Pink*)
- “To stand before men on behalf of God is one thing. To stand before God on behalf of men is something entirely different.” (*Leonard Ravenhill*)

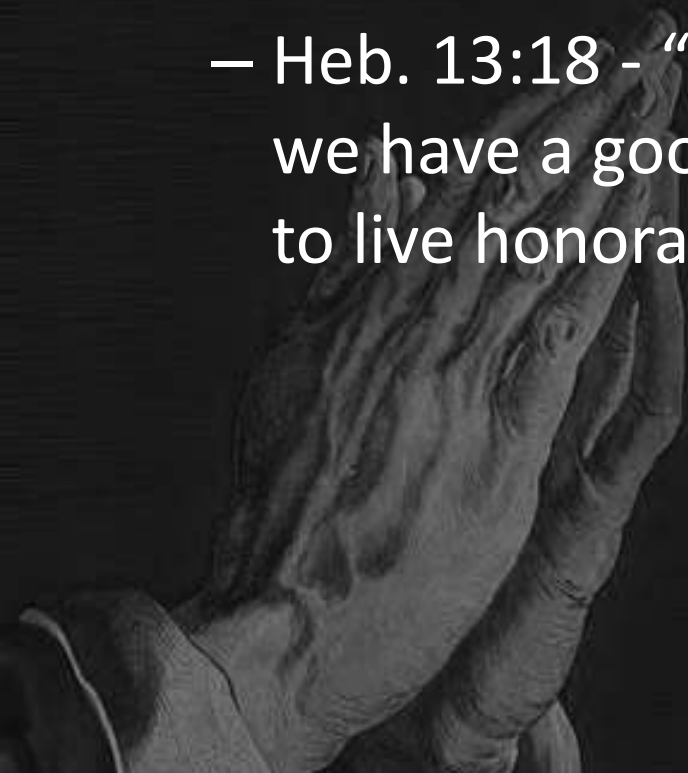


“Please Pray for Me”

- “Intercessory prayer is exceedingly prevalent. What wonders it has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren. So the preacher of the gospel asks your prayers; and, it is a part of the duties arising out of the relationship between Christian men that those who are taught should pray for those who teach God’s Word. We cannot all argue, but we can all pray; we cannot all be leaders, but we can all be pleaders; we cannot all be mighty in rhetoric, but we can all be prevalent in prayer. I would sooner see you eloquent with God than with men.” *(Charles Haddon Spurgeon)*

Need For God's Help

- Paul often asked those with whom he worked to pray for him.
 - 1Thes. 5:25 - “Brethren, pray for us.”
 - Heb. 13:18 - “Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.”

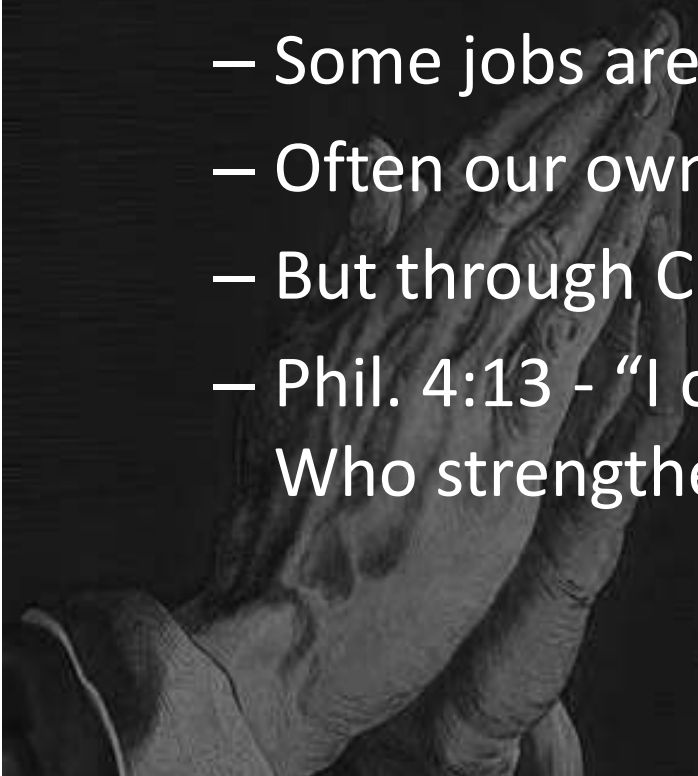


Need For God's Help

- Rom. 15:30 - "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"
- Eph. 6:18-19 - "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel"
- 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"

Need For God's Help

- Paul openly acknowledged his need for Divine help.
 - Many things are outside of our control.
 - Some jobs are too big to be done without God.
 - Often our own strength is not enough.
 - But through Christ, we can do all things.
 - Phil. 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me."

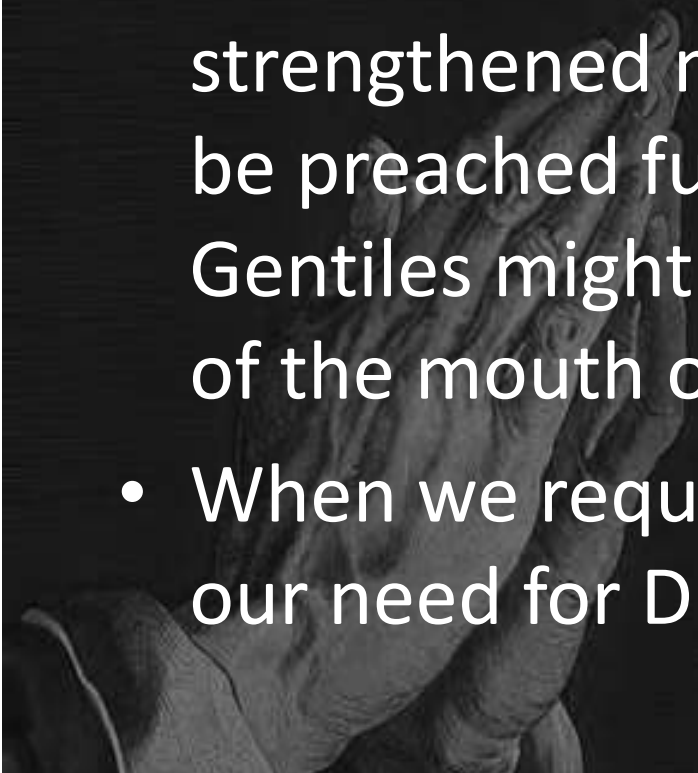


Need For God's Help

- God gives help to those who pray for it.
 - 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!”

Need For God's Help

- Matt. 28:20 - "...And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- 2Tim. 4:17 - "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."
- When we request prayers, we acknowledge our need for Divine help.

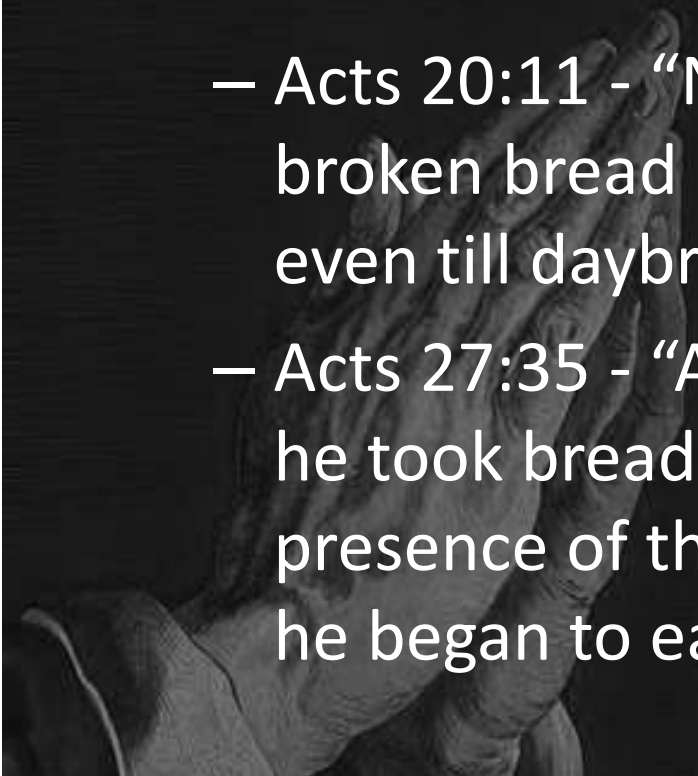


Dependence On God's Providence

- Even though Paul lived in a time of miracles, God didn't supply all of his wants miraculously
- Paul had a thorn in the flesh that God didn't remove
 - 2Cor. 12:7-9 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

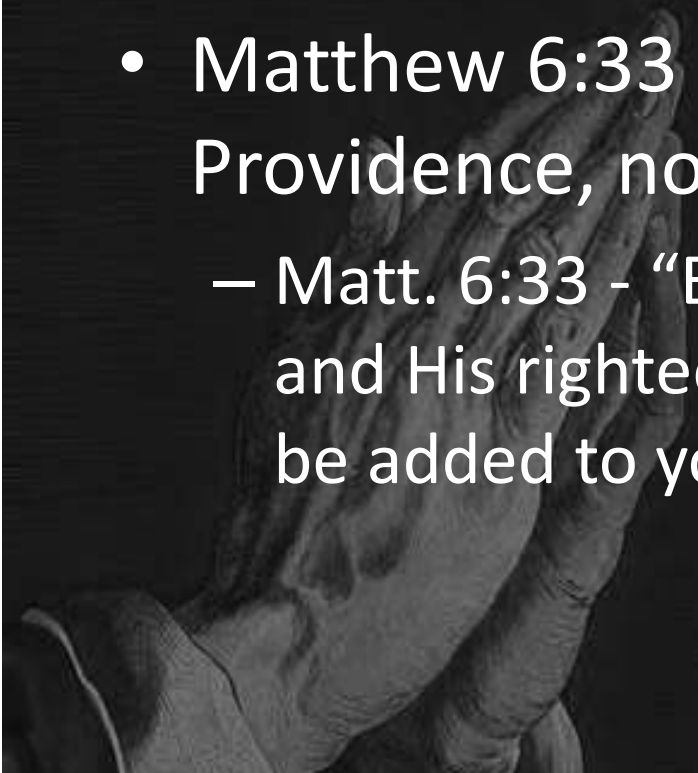
Dependence On God's Providence

- Paul's coworkers got sick
 - 2Tim. 4:20 - “Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick”
- Paul had to eat
 - Acts 20:11 - “Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed.”
 - Acts 27:35 - “And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.”



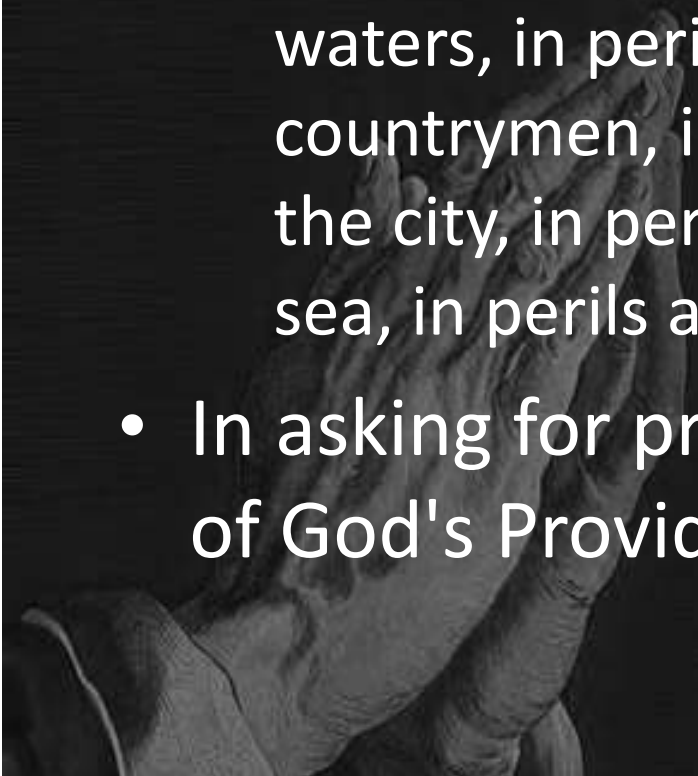
Dependence On God's Providence

- Paul also needed clothing and shelter, and he depended on God's Providence to receive these things.
- Matthew 6:33 is a promise of God's Providence, not His miracles.
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”



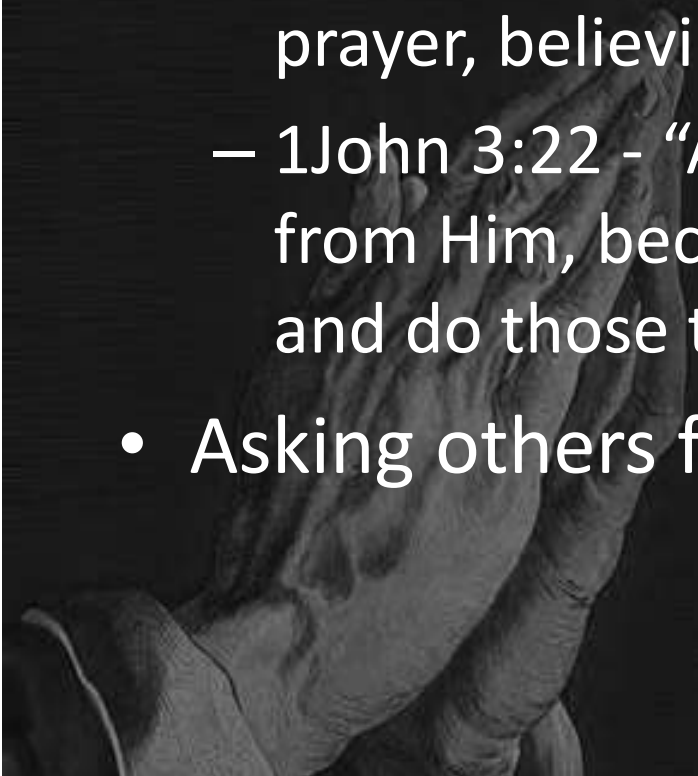
Dependence On God's Providence

- Paul needed aid in personal safety and protection.
 - 2Cor. 11:26 - "...in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren..."
- In asking for prayers, we acknowledge the role of God's Providence.



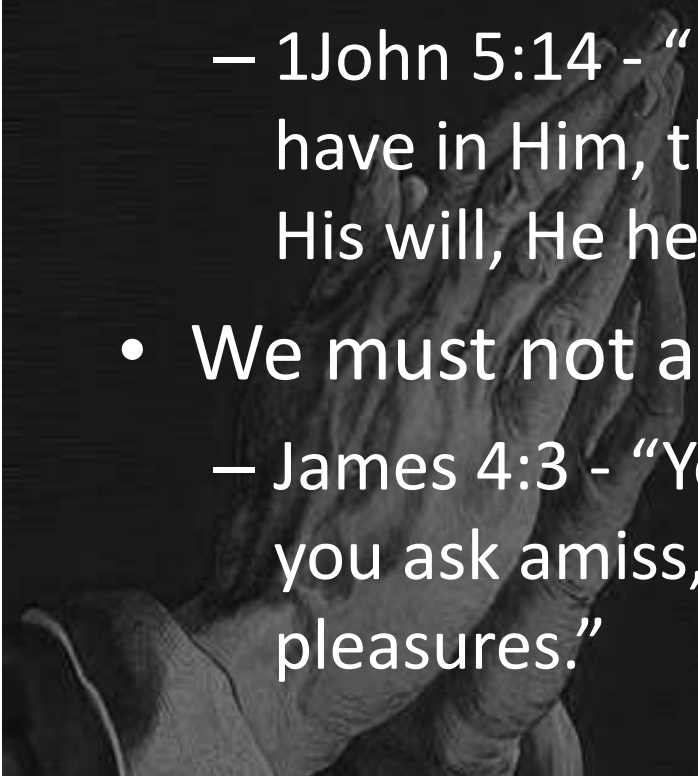
Conviction That God Answers Prayer

- The Bible teaches that God answers prayer for those who believe and obey.
 - Matt. 21:22 - “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
 - 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.”
- Asking others for prayer manifests this belief.



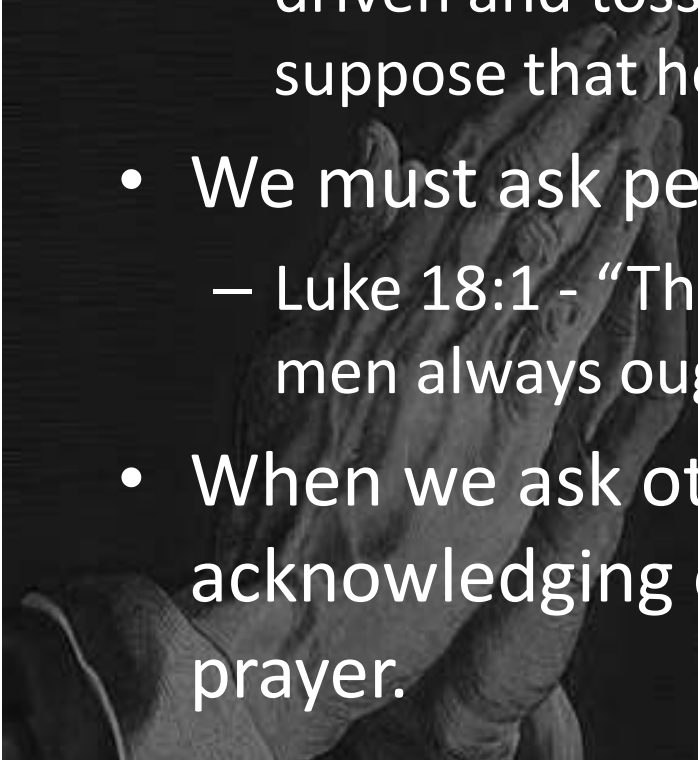
Conviction That God Answers Prayer

- For God to answer our prayers, we must ask acceptably.
- We must ask according to His will.
 - 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.”
- We must not ask out of selfishness.
 - James 4:3 - “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”



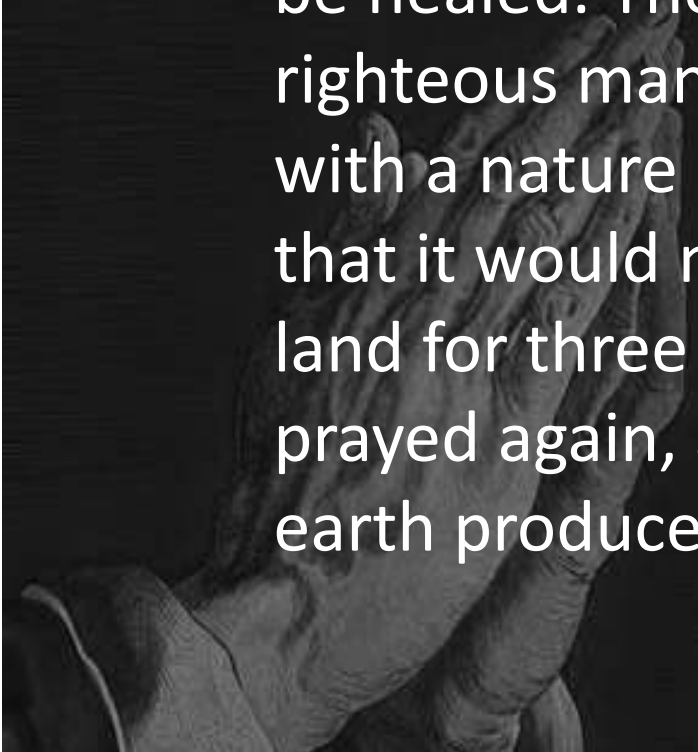
Conviction That God Answers Prayer

- We must ask in faith.
 - James 1:6-7 - “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord”
- We must ask persistently.
 - Luke 18:1 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”
- When we ask others to pray for us, we are acknowledging our conviction that God answers prayer.



Trusting That Brethren Are Living Righteously

- God answers the prayers of the righteous.
 - James 5:16-18 - “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”



Trusting That Brethren Are Living Righteously

- The faithful are assured that God will respond to their prayers
 - 1Peter 3:12 - “For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”
 - Prov. 15:29 - “The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”
- When we ask others for prayers, we are declaring our trust in their faithfulness and righteousness before God.

“Please Pray for Me”

- “Prayer is more powerful than habits, heredity, and natural tendencies. It can overcome all these. It is more powerful than the forces that hold the planets in place. Prayer, though it comes from the heart of an unlearned child of God, can suspend the laws of the universe, if such be God’s will, just as the sun stood still when Joshua prayed. There is no other power on earth that the enemy of souls hates and fears as he does prayer. We are told that ‘Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.’” (*Matilda Andross, “The Life That Wins” p. 38*)