

ATMOSPHERE FOR ANSWERED PRAYERS

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Every man that prays expects his prayers to be answered. When they are not answered, despair and questions fill the heart. God, who called for requests and prayers to be offered to Him in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, wants to answer the prayers of His people with joy. He is not happy Himself that he is not able to answer the prayers of His people. This statement may seem difficult to understand, but is true that God wants to answer your prayers and mine. Many do not understand that God is a principled God and cannot break His own laws. He works within the limits of His own laid down rules and regulations. It is therefore important that God's people understand that God answers prayers when the conditions for a prayer to be answered are met. For prayer to be answered, the right atmosphere has to be created and established.

Eccl 8:5-6

5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. 6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

NIV

In this study we are going to look at the atmosphere for answered prayers. If you have ever wondered why your prayers were not answered or answer delayed, then join me in this study with rapt attention.

UNDERSTANDING ATMOSPHERE

Atmosphere is mood or tone: a prevailing emotional tone or attitude, especially one associated with a specific place or time. Atmosphere is a pleasurable and interesting or exciting mood. Atmosphere is also a state of mental confusion, worry and restlessness. Atmosphere is a man's mood at a particular time.

Mood is a state of mind or feeling; e.g. an angry, irritable, or sullen state of mind.

Atmosphere has to do with your mind – the state of your mind from the time you pray and the time you receive. The attitude of faith is what God wants. Faith means absolute trust in God. Faith in God means rest in the ability and willingness of God to answer and meet your needs. Faith in God means confidence in God and calmness of spirit, mind and emotions as one waits on God to fulfill His promises.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Ps 125:1

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

NIV

Those who trust the Lord have confidence in God, and as a result are not moved by situations to the point of worry, panic, fear and anxiety. It is God's desire that those who

come to Him believe that He exists and that will answer or reward those who call on Him.

Heb 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

NIV

It is confidence in God that make men attempt great things for God. It was confidence in God that made David to face Goliath when no one was willing to face him from the Israeli army. It is confidence that make men to hold on even when all the happenings around suggests strongly to give up and try something else. It is this kind of trust that God our Father wants all His children to have. It requires a lot of understanding and hard work to be so stable in faith that one is not moved by situations.

The insight that the scriptures give us creates this kind of confidence. Giving one's ears and eyes to the word of God strengthens and brings our faith to this level of confidence. This kind of confidence produces calmness or peacefulness that enables God to answer prayer. The atmosphere of confidence symbolized by the peace in the heart as one believes and waits on God for the answer to his prayer is what makes God to answer man's prayers. Worry disqualifies one from receiving an answer to his prayers. Anxiety, fear, unbelief, panic and worry hinder God from answering prayers. They represent the wrong atmosphere – lack of faith (confidence) in God. You need the atmosphere of faith – calmness, quietness, rest, confidence and optimism to get results.

CALMNESS RELEASES THE STRENGTH OF GOD

Isa 30:15

15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

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The above passage explains that as repentance plus rest (faith) equals salvation, so also quietness (calmness, absence of worry, anxiety, fear and unbelief) and trust (confidence in God) causes a release of God's strength to go through the challenge successfully and produce a miracle. It is very clear from the above declaration of the Prophet Isaiah, that the atmosphere for God's strength to meet man's need is released as a man is trustingly quiet and calm within him. When you are rowdy inside, God will not answer you. When you are worried, you will not get God to answer you. When you are anxious about your situation, need and request, the strength of God cannot be released. It is only released when the man is quiet inside. When there is panic or fear, God cannot manifest His power to change things. Though He wants to, but He cannot, because the law says, one must be quiet inside as one trust in the Lord. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. God only works when faith is in place. Rest and quietness is a proof of faith; worry, anxiety and fear are not.

Confidence in God causes one to rest in God not worrying or troubled, knowing that God is in control and able and willing to change situations, solve all problems and meet every need. To rest means to be calm inside free from worry, fear and anxiety. The summary of the truth revealed in the passages we have been considering is that the atmosphere of peace, rest, quietness in trust in God is a necessity for a prayer to be answered.

HOW TO ACHIEVE CALMNESS AS ONE WAITS FOR ANSWER

Isa 26:3

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

KJV

It is important that you know that there is a connection between your thoughts and faith. Your thoughts about the word of God heard creates faith which is acceptance of what is heard. Your thoughts also create unbelief or doubt. This is the reason why the word has to be preached and taught to reveal, expose, unfold, and give insight and understanding to the mind of the hearer. This enables faith to develop and be strengthened where it already exists. It is also important that you know what you focus your mind on increases in strength and power. It is in this vein that God wants all His people not to fix their minds on the problems or challenges, but on Him. When the mind is fixed on God, God gives peace, and when there is peace, the strength of God is released to make things happen, meet needs and solve problems. When the mind is fixed on the situation, it grows in strength in the mind – the anthill becomes a mountain, the problems become stronger and frightening. And as a result, worry, anxiety, panic and fear seize the mind and faith dies, making it impossible for God to meet needs and solve problems.

God is committed to give His peace to the one who focuses his mind on God and His promises and not on his challenges and needs. It is true, the challenge before you will be pulling your mind to focus on it, and you must resist such and determine to focus on God, knowing that, that is the only way to win. Do not forget, it takes the atmosphere of peace, rest, quietness and trust to get God to answer prayers.

BE STILL AND GOD WILL SHOW UP

Ps 37:7

7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

NIV

To be still is to be calm before God. To be still is to be at peace within you. To be still is not to worry about anything, especially about your situation. To be still is not to panic or be fearful. To be still is to stand back and watch God take over the situation and turn it around His own way, at His own time. Never forget that His time may not be your time. He makes all things beautiful in His own time (Eccl 3: 11).

To be still is to wait patiently in hope and confidently trust without worry. Many believers do not like the word – patience. It is the hate for or absence of patience that

creates worries and makes us to doubt God. In this day of instant everything, it is becoming increasingly difficult to wait on God in patient anticipation of the answer to our prayers. He promised to answer all our prayers, but never promised that all will be instant. Some of cause will be instant, but not all. So don't get discouraged when it appears to be coming late. God is never late. And he will never deny you what you genuinely need. As long as your need is within the limits of His promise in Christ, you will get it - if your request is in an accordance with the will of God, and not contrary, He will answer you. If your request is not in agreement with the promise of God for His people, He will not answer you. If it is not in line with His plan and purpose for your life, He will not answer you. God is only committed to answering prayers that are in accordance with His will for His people.

Let this understanding strengthen you to patiently wait in quietness for God to answer you. Answers are delayed sometimes because there is no faith or stable faith. James taught us that instability of faith will not get us anything from God. When faith is modulating (unstable), answer is delayed because God stops working. When faith resumes, God resumes work. So, a stable faith will make answer come faster.

James 1:5-8

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

NIV

CONCLUSION

Ps 46:10

10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

NIV

God is committed to proving Himself to man when he is still before Him. He will exalt Himself among the nations and in the earth when we in trust are quiet within us as we call and wait on Him to show up. He is committed to those who are still before Him. He will answer you when you maintain stillness.

It is a battle to maintain calmness while waiting for God to answer. It is the battle for the mind. The devil seeks to always control the human mind and destroy his faith and make it impossible for God to answer his prayer. The real spiritual warfare is making effort to maintain a state of peacefulness while trusting God. You must win this battle if answer for your prayers is on your mind. Guard your mind and keep doubt and worry out.

The atmosphere you create around you determines your experience. It is important that you create the right atmosphere to get the answer you desperately need. He will not disappoint you as you trust him. Your duty is to make sure you are quiet, calm, and

peaceful as you look up to him in faith. Prove your faith by being calm within. Prove your faith and confidence in God by refusing to worry, fret, panic, and be anxious or fearful. Keep your eyes and thoughts on God and His promises, and your mind will be at peace by the workings of God, then you will get your answer.