

God answers all our prayer

“Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Acts 10:4b

NUGGET – Have you ever been frustrated by the thought, ‘I just can’t remember things like I used to?’ It’s like hunting for your keys before you leave the house. I think I always put them on my dresser so I know right where they are. But there are times that, for whatever reason, I put them elsewhere and then I spend time and get frustrated the next day trying to remember where.

Well today's nugget verse speaks to that idea of remembering and why it is that God doesn't forget us and why He always hears and answers our prayers. I've got to admit that I had to do some digging in the Old Testament to get a handle on this verse. I needed to find out what a “memorial offering before God” meant.

The memorial offering comes from the Old Testament command of a memorial sacrifice, which was done to commemorate, to call to mind, the covenant with God. Such a sacrifice served to both;

- ◆ remind God of His promises (*as if He'd forget!*) and
- ◆ for the people to be reminded of *their* promises to obey and follow God ways (*as if they/we can remember!*).

The Old Testament memorial offering was that portion of ([Lev 2:1-16](#)) grain, oil or meat ([Lev 5:5-13](#)) offered to God by the Hebrews as atonement for sin, or for giving thanks and there would be a ([Num 10:10](#)) public ceremony to recall God's promises to them. This would be a **memorial** reminder, of what God had said. The cornerstone promise God spoke was that He would be their God and they would be His people. ([Ex 6:6-8](#); [Lev 26:12-13](#); [Ezek 36:22-29a](#))

God hears His people for the sake of **His** promise of mercy and deliverance of salvation and forgiveness. The memorial offering is based on His promise. It relies on His word. And that can never fail! Our prayers are always heard!

God hears and always, always answers our prayers. When we pray and He remembers us, we are called to His memory. We pray and He accepts, as a remembrance of Jesus blood and sacrifice that fulfilled His promises to us, for the sake of that memory, God remembers us when we pray in Jesus name.

The next time you forget where you put *your* keys, take just a moment out of your frustration to thank God for the fact that He never forgets you. Remember that your prayers are always heard by God because, for Jesus sake, He always remembers you.

APPLICATION –

1. Take a piece of paper and write down a prayer request. Then take a match and light the paper on fire. Let it burn and as it does so let that private ceremony remind you that our prayers ascend to God like the smoke from the fire. Remember that God hears and answers each prayer that rises to Him through faith and trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

PRAY – Speak out loud your thanks to God for His promise to remember you and to hear your prayers to Him.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom Rhodes

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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*Going Deeper together. We meet in the **Fellowship Hall** during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.*

GOING DEEPER

Pennies From Heaven God answers all our prayer

To sum up our study on prayer; if we don't have the confidence that God hears us and answers us, we have no need of prayer. We can have all the techniques, styles and words that we want, but if God doesn't hear us, then we pray in vain.

To have confidence that God hears us gives us boldness to pray. And such confidence also imparts a responsibility as well. Read [Ephesians 3:10-12](#). Paul speaks there of the idea of confidence in God hearing us because of the mystery of the gospel that is ours. And he speaks of the responsibility that comes with that knowledge. How does such confidence affect Paul's life (see the whole of chapter 3)?

Look now at [Heb 4:14-16; 10:11-24](#). Our reason for confidence comes from the blood of Jesus Christ. What does that certainty tell us about God hearing and answering our prayers? And, if God will always hear us and He is listening to us, what implication does that have for all of life?

Turning to the Apostle John and his 1st epistle letter. Read [1 John 5:11-15](#). Here is plain speaking about God hearing and answering our prayers. What does it take to know that God hears you when you pray? And knowing that, what kind of things do we then include in our prayers?

Read the gospel of [John 11:41-42](#). We are given a glimpse into the Father and Son relationship of Jesus and God. What are the implications for our prayer life that comes from this relationship?

I want to close by returning to the setting for the nugget verse today so please read [Acts 10:1-8](#). What happened as a result of Cornelius' praying 'to God regularly'? How does that speak to how we live our lives?

I want to close this study series with prayer. I pray, knowing that God answers prayer, I pray that you will go boldly to the throne of God each day. I pray, confident of God hearing me for Jesus' sake, I pray that you are encouraged to expand your prayer life. I pray, with the certainty that God is our God and we are His children by the blood of Christ, that throughout your life, you will enjoy the peace of knowing, you are heard at the altar of God in heaven!

In the peace of Christ, PR