

ANSWERED PRAYERS

SAMPLE

PAGES

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things,
which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

Leo R. LaVinka

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LEO R. LAVINKA

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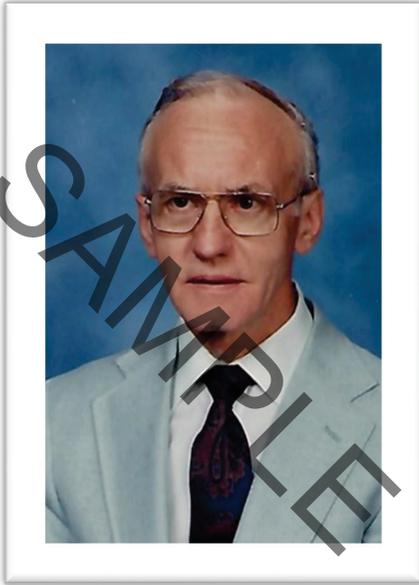
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DEDICATION



I dedicate this book to Ray Owens who left this earth for heaven on January 29, 1997. He was my friend and prayer partner for over twenty-five years. He was a faithful man of God who always served his church and God to the very best of his ability. He set a

very high standard in his testimony as a husband, father, and faithful servant. It was my blessing that God allowed me to know and serve with this faithful servant of God.

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FOREWORD

My book, "Are You Ready," was written for the purpose of passing on to my descendants a testimony of some Biblical essentials necessary for salvation and growing in faith for born again Christians. It contains six topics which I believe would help as the clear preaching of God's Word, at least in our nation, grows colder and colder. Hopefully, it will motivate all readers to search all the scripture, study it, hide it in their heart, meditate on it, obey it, and live by it.

Psalm 78:5-7 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

On further reflection I discovered one very important topic was left out. That is God's desire to hear our petitions (prayers) and answer them in accordance with His perfect will. He is our Father; we are His sons. I am convinced we do not receive many of the blessings He offers because we don't ask or really believe He will answer. We know He can, we just don't believe He will. When we do get answers we won't give God the credit and glory that he richly deserves. We shrug it off as coincidence.

Psalm 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

This book, "Answered Prayers," reflects a few of the numerous prayers I personally know God has answered. My desire is that our Holy God will receive all the glory for the wonderful care and personal attention He

bestows on all of us as His family, the Church of God. To God be the glory!

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

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INTRODUCTION

How many prayers have you received an answer from God and did not give him credit? One or two, maybe hundreds, or even thousands. Why do many people pray morning and night bringing their worship, praise, and petitions to God, and really don't think He is listening? When we do see specific answers we shrug it off thinking it's a coincidence. We are grateful for the answer, but won't give God credit for his intervention. Does this sound familiar? I am personally convicted of my own shortcomings in not giving God his due credit and praise in answering my prayers. Job had a desire that his words were written, printed in a book, and graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever. He said in Job 19:25, 26 *"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."* Job got his prayers answered. His words are recorded in the Bible (KJV) and are forever settled in heaven, and he has now seen God. Job's prayers should be our own prayer with respect to answered prayers as well as all our other thousands of blessings.

Job 19:23-24 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! 24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

This book is my feeble attempt to bring to the attention of those who read it that our God is a loving God who cares for us and has even numbered the hairs on our head. His attributes are infinitely larger than our ability to comprehend or understand. This book only addresses "Answered Prayers," and I write it knowing full well that there is no way I can even scratch the surface of recording how great God is in hearing and answering our prayers. May we give God all praise and glory. He alone is awesome and deserves all our gratitude, praise, and worship. To God be the glory!

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

I also want to acknowledge the help of my faithful wife, and Dr. and Mrs. H. D.

Williams for their assistance in producing this book. To God be the glory!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

The Bible (KJV) teaches us to pray without ceasing. Jesus said ask (pray) in faith nothing wavering. Pastor Terry Poole said, "Most of us believe God can answer prayer, we just don't believe He will." When we do pray and God answers do we really give God his due credit, praise, and glory? If God's heart could be broken, this should do it. Jesus said we have not because we ask not. God is our Father. We are His children. Would a father give his child a stone if he asked for bread or a serpent if he asked for a fish? Would you? Christians who are right with God and pray do get answers. How many Christians looking back would say as Job did "*Oh that my words were now written _ _ printed in a book! _ _graven in the rock for ever!*" I believe most of us could apply Job's prayer with our own desire concerning answered prayers; "Oh that they were remembered and recorded for all to see."; to give God all the praise and glory that he so richly deserves; to show that our redeemer lives and he is a loving Father who cares for us.

Matthew 7:7-10 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

James 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS

There are many books available on prayer. John R. Rice wrote a book titled "*Prayer, Asking and Receiving.*" He said the

answer to prayer is receiving. Many books discuss hindrances to prayer, how to pray, what to pray for, etc. If you want your prayers answered, keep God's commandments, live to please God, and receive the joy of the Lord. This book is written to reveal God's answering prayers in my own personal life, and the lives of friends. It only gives a small sample of what I remember and certainly doesn't reflect the many that I have forgotten, but every now and then they pop into my mind. I want my family, their descendants, and all who read this book to know our one true God is a loving Father who has a bag of blessings available to all who ask. I am not a Bible scholar, nor do I claim to be a prayer warrior. I am only a child of God bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

1John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Luke 11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

WAREHOUSE OF BLESSINGS

This book has absolutely nothing to do with me. It is meant to give God all the praise and glory which He richly deserves. Not to do so could only bring the wrath of God on all of us; but thanks be to God who loves us. He is God! I'm a nobody except for the redeeming blood of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My prayer is that all who read this will only see God and his love for all his children. I once heard a preacher describe our lack of prayer by saying when we get to heaven we may see a large warehouse full of blessings which God had for each of us if we had only asked. To God be the glory for answering our prayers.

Acts 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the

*glory: and he was eaten of worms,
and gave up the ghost.*

*Romans 11:36 For of him, and
through him, and to him, are all
things: to whom be glory for ever.
Amen.*

*1 John 4:8 He that loveth not
knoweth not God; for God is love.*

*Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is
rich in mercy, for his great love
wherewith he loved us,*

SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND

I think my first sincere prayer may have been standing over my friend's grave realizing that life was short, and that I could have been the one in the grave instead of my friend. I had a heart felt concern for life after death. I asked God to reveal his truth. I discussed this with my wife and we started seeking God's truth. We started going to a Methodist Church, but it didn't help. Finally, my job transferred from Jacksonville, Florida to Atlanta, Georgia where a co-worker, Bob Carpenter, continuously bombarded me with scripture and his personal testimony. He was different. He always demonstrated his

love, commitment, peace of mind, and dedication to serving God. I wanted what he had. He invited me to Forrest Hills Baptist Church where Curtis Hutson was pastor. After much preaching and my friend's continuous concern, my wife and I on August 24, 1969, prayed for forgiveness and asked Jesus Christ to save us. He did! God answers prayer!

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

GROWING IN FAITH

The instant I got saved I wanted to grow in the Lord and tell others, especially my family, what God did for me. I began to grow under the great ministry of Pastor

Curtis Hutson and many other great visiting preachers.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

PERSONAL CONVICTION

Forrest Hills Baptist Church had many great people who lived their testimony. Visitation and tract distribution were emphasized. I became convicted of my lack of service. I thought when I know my Bible like others, and when I was not scared of questions, or praying in public I too would give out tracts and go visiting. It finally dawned on me I would never go. I gave up

and prayed to God for help. He said go and depend completely on Him to do the work. This partnership worked. Just pray and go. I still go visiting and pass out tracts. I can't save anyone but my God can and does. God answers prayers!

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.