

AN INCREDIBLE PROMISE

John 14:13-14

Introduction: We believe what a person says usually by how well we know that person or by that person's reputation. There are some who tell us that they will do this or that or that they won't do this or that and never fulfill their promise. We must admit that we, also, have failed to "keep our word" sometimes. However for us to question Jesus and a promise He makes would be very foolish for one thing for certain about Jesus, what He says always happens. Jesus stresses the importance of prayer and makes a promise to those who pray:

"...And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it..." (Text)

I. PRAYERS ARE PROMISED TO BE ANSWERED

1. Could Jesus have made this promise any plainer?
2. What a staggering promise made to His disciples, and also to us, to any believer in Him.
3. **John 15:7-8** is another version of the same promise.
4. **John 16:23-24** is once again a renewal of that same promise.
5. Six times this great promise is given and all within a very short time.
6. It is the greatest, most wonderful promise ever made to a believer, YET it is practically ignored by most Christians. WHY?
7. Think about the frequency of YOUR own prayer time. Satan finds ways to persuade us to neglect praying.
 - Satan leads us to believe that we can do things ourselves and don't need any help.
 - Satan causes us to rely on others more than we do upon God.
8. We actually dare to try to do things for the Lord without being on our knees very much, if at all.
9. We ask ourselves and then we ask God, why aren't our prayers answered?
 - Is the promise Jesus made not real?
 - Isn't God to be trusted?
 - Can't God keep this promise Jesus made?
 - Doesn't God mean what He says?
10. So, whose fault is it when our prayers go unanswered? God says He delights in answering prayer and Jesus has promised that God will answer our prayers.

II. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO PRAY, TO ASK OF HIM

1. It is quite evident that Jesus desires us to ask the Father for much.
2. We don't dare say that Jesus' words are not true, yet, somehow few Christians really seem to believe what Jesus promised.
 - Why do WE doubt God's love?
 - Why do WE doubt God's power?
 - Why are WE afraid to put God to the test?
3. God wants our prayers. Jesus wants us to pray. EVERYTHING depends upon prayer.
 - "If no one else prayed anymore often or with any more concern for the lost, what condition is God's Church in?"
4. So, do you spend at least ten minutes a day in prayer?

5. How often do YOU really pray? Is prayer a "duty? Is prayer a privilege? Is prayer a pleasure? Is prayer a real joy? Is prayer a necessity? Just what is prayer to YOU?

III. FOR HOW LONG DOES ONE PRAY?

1. The wonder is not that we pray so little, BUT that we can ever get off our knees when considering all the needs around us.
2. How long must we pray?
 - Some need an hour a day.
 - Some need two hours a day.
 - Some need four hours a day.
 - Some are totally exhausted of things to say after ten minutes.
 - So, how long did Jesus pray?
3. We are finished praying when the Holy Spirit has searched us through and through.
4. So, do you really want to do God's will?
 - Do you really believe His promise?
 - Are you really sincere in what you as of God?
5. A word of caution - Don't vow to pray so much a day.
 - Resolve to pray much, but prayer must be spontaneous.
6. God wants ME to pray. God wants YOU to pray.
 - ARE WE WILLING TO REALLY PRAY AND EXPECT GOD TO ANSWER?

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus made a promise that the prayers of His followers (Christians) would be answered.
2. Most Christians don't have all their prayers answered. Is it because they are asking the wrong thing or is it because they DON'T BELIEVE their prayers will be answered?
3. Christian, you have God's word that your prayers are important to Him and He wants to answer them.
4. Satan doesn't want you to pray and will do all he can to keep your prayers short if none at all.
5. So Christian, are you going to continue on with your prayer life as it is or are you going to get serious about praying?