

CAN ONE TEST GOD?

Judges 6:34-40

Introduction: Does God indeed answer prayer? Is prayer of any real use? Even pagans and other non-Christians cry out to someone or something for help in times of danger, disaster and pain.

Is it even right to put God to the test? DARE we put God to the test? So many hold so much unbelief regarding the value and effectiveness of prayer and it seems so vain much of the time.

What about asking for signs or putting God to the test? Would that God's people would! What a test of faith it would be.

1. God allows us to "prove Him" even though we have His promises of answered prayers.
2. We don't need to take up Gideon's procedure (sheep's skin test) as our own procedure for it tends to leave the impression that one has a "lack of belief in God's Word."
3. The best and safer way is to "ask, nothing doubting." Yet it is comforting to know that God does allow our "testing." Remember *Matthew 14:28-29* when Peter tested Jesus?
4. God also said, "***Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open unto you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it..***"
5. Yes, God does say to "prove Him, test Him" but just "who" is being tested? Is it God or is it US?
6. As yourself, "Have I ever really fairly tested prayer?" How long has it been since you've offered a definite prayer? Don't we pray for a "general" blessing upon a whole congregation? Don't we pray for a "universal" healing of the sick? Don't we pray that "the" lost will be saved?"
7. Most of our prayer requests are so universal.
8. Can someone here, right now, tell of offering a prayer for a specific thing and then seeing that prayer answered? (a time for testimonies here)
9. So many cannot put their finger on any real, definite conclusive answer in prayer.
10. Most Christians do not give God a chance to show how interested He is in them for their prayers are so vague and indefinite. It isn't surprising at all that to so many, prayer is just a mechanical repetition.
11. How many of YOU have felt that your prayer would be granted, even before you finished your prayer?
12. Is answered prayers an experience limited to just a select few of God? Does God mean for every Christian to have answered prayers?
13. Is God a respecter of persons? NO! (*1 John 5:14-15*)

14. It is natural and normal for a Christian to pray, NOT extraordinary. Isn't it a fact that the reason so many don't have an active, effectual prayer life is because they just don't believe God? IF you believe God's promises, you will pray and you will have answered prayers. What miracles God would work in you.

CONCLUSION:

1. *John 14:14* still holds good today.
2. We may fail God, but blessed be His Name, He has never failed us and never will. We doubt Him, we mistrust His love, we gripe and complain, yet all the while He is there, waiting to pour out His blessings.
3. Have you tested God? Try Him, Test Him, Prove Him.