Saved To Serve

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Why Does God Not Answer My Prayers?
Is Christianity A Fairytale?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will respond to doubts concerning God's promises and the validity of Christianity made by a prominent YouTuber and musician, Young Don.

2. Current Event: YouTuber & Musician Young Don Leaves & Rejects Christianity
https://x.com/youngdonforvr/status/1890435670142759281?s=12

3. To answer these important questions, we must first establish how we are to study and understand the bible. How do we interpret the scriptures and learn Bible truth? 1 Corinthians 2:13-14; Isaiah 28:9-10

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4. **Note:** Read John 14:12. One definition of the word 'greater' is "of an extent, amount, or intensity considerably above the normal or average" (Oxford Languages). John 14:12 means that the works of Jesus' followers would have greater extent than His works.

5. Who did Jesus promise to send to His disciples in John 14:26?

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a) In Acts 2:1-4, 17-21, the disciples received the Holy Ghost. What was the result of their preaching? Acts 2:41

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b) To whom did the apostles preach the gospel of Christ in their time? Colossians 1:23

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6. **Note:** The power of the Holy Spirit that attended the work of the apostles was so powerful that the gospel spread to the inhabited world at that time. The extent of that work superseded Jesus' labors which He did for three and a half years. In these last days, the Holy Spirit's power will again be poured in full measure and the gospel will spread to every person on the globe (Acts 2:17-18; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6-7).

"And greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father." By this Christ did not mean that the disciples' work would be of a more exalted character than His, but that it would have greater extent. He did not refer merely to miracle working, but to all that would take place under the working of the Holy Spirit. {DA 664.5}

After the Lord's ascension, the disciples realized the fulfillment of His promise. The scenes of the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ were a living reality to them. They saw that the prophecies had been literally fulfilled. They searched the Scriptures, and accepted their teaching with a faith and assurance unknown before. **They knew that the divine Teacher was all that He had claimed to be. As they told their experience, and exalted the love of God, men's hearts were melted and subdued, and multitudes believed on Jesus.** {DA 667.1}

The Saviour's promise to His disciples is a promise to His church to the end of time. {DA 667.2}

7. What was John the Baptist called by Jesus? Luke 7:28; Matthew 11:10-11

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a) How many miracles did John the Baptist perform? John 10:41 _____

b) **Note:** John the Baptist was called "great" because of the spiritual mission he was given by God. As we surrender to Jesus and fulfill His commission to tell others about Him, we will also be considered great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 11:10-11). This teaches us that the "greatest" work that we can do is not miracles but leading others to the Savior.

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17. Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. **This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of**

the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the Scriptures, it is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." {AA 476.1}

8. Read John 14:13-14. What does it mean to ask in God's name? 1 John 5:13-14

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a) **Note:** Most of the promises of God in scripture are conditional (i.e. Jonah 3:1-4, 8-10). However, 1 John 5:14 lets us know that we can have the assurance that God hears our prayers when we pray according to His will. Then, God will respond to our requests with yes, no, or wait. See the following points for confirmation.

9. When John the Baptist was imprisoned and doubted if Jesus was truly the Messiah, did Jesus answer his question and fulfill his desire to be delivered from prison? Matthew 11:2-6; Matthew 14:10

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a) What did Jesus say to John in Matthew 11:6?

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10. Let us continue to look at accounts in scripture where prayers were not answered as an individual(s) hoped they would be. What was the cry and prayer of the Israelites in Egypt? Exodus 2:23-24

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11. For how long were they to be in bondage? Genesis 15:13-14; Acts 7:6-7 _____

12. Does this mean that God was not hearing their prayers for 400 years? **Answer:** No, Jesus was hearing their prayers but He caused them to wait for deliverance until the appointed time (James 1:3-4).

13. What did Moses pray, and how did God respond? Deuteronomy 3:23-26

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14. What was Jesus' specific prayer in Luke 22:42-44? How did God the Father respond to His prayer?

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15. What does it mean that "the prayer of faith shall save the sick"? James 5:14-15 **Answer:** The prayer of faith is primarily for the salvation of the individual more than physical healing. Upon receiving the prayer of faith, a repentant person will have the assurance of the forgiveness of their sins, their salvation, and will believe that he or she will be raised in the first resurrection. According to God's will, He chooses to raise them off their sick bed or have them wait in the grave until the first resurrection. In this way, God is glorified in the death or life of the faithful individual (Psalm 116:15).

16. Does the Bible teach that we should pray over a person who is in willful sin and rebellion against God? Jeremiah 7:16; 1 Samuel 15:35; 1 Samuel 16:1

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a) **Note:** Even in the days of Ellen White, not every prayer was honored due to the presence of willful sin in the life of an individual. See the book, *An Appeal To Mothers* for further reference (ApM 27.1, 2).

17. What did David pray for? What was the end result? 2 Samuel 12:15-16, 18

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18. Where did David go after hearing the sorrowful news? 2 Samuel 12:20, 22-23

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19. Which miracle did the Jews <u>see and hear about</u> which is referenced in John 12:9, 17-18?

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20. However, what was the response of the Jews after <u>seeing and hearing</u> Jesus' miracles and preaching? John 12:37

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21. What did Paul ask God thrice to remove from Him? According to Paul, why was that trial given to him? 2 Corinthians 12:7-8

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22. Instead of answering Paul's request as he desired, what did Jesus say? 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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23. Why does God often delay His response to our prayers? Romans 8:25

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24. Who helps to interpret our prayers to God, and why? Romans 8:26

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25. How does the Holy Spirit intercede to God on our behalf? Romans 8:27

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26. Although we may not always get the expected outcome we hoped for when we pray, what can we take comfort in? Romans 8:28

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27. The devil will try to use our feelings to turn our hearts away from God. Even though we will face hardships and trials in this life, what does God promise? Romans 8:35-39

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