

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, showing text on the pages. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left, casting shadows and highlighting the texture of the hands and the pages of the book. The background is dark, making the hands and the Bible the central focus.

Prayer Deserves Priority

1 Kings 8:22–43

Prayer Deserves Priority

- 1. God is faithful**
- 2. God listens**
- 3. God responds**
- 4. Everyone can pray**

God is faithful

vv. 22-24

*Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; 23 and he said: “Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, **who keep Your covenant and mercy** with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. 24 **You have kept what You promised** Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.*

God is faithful

vv. 22-24

Solomon spoke of **the faithfulness of God to keep His promises.**

As we consider the Lord's **faithfulness**, we have good reason to pray.

God listens

vv. 27-28

*“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! 28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and **listen to the cry and the prayer** which Your servant is praying before You today*

God listens

vv. 27-28

We are invited to come before the throne of grace in our time of need through Jesus Christ

Heb. 4:16 *“Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”*

God responds

vv. 38-39

*whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: 39 then **hear** in heaven Your dwelling place, and **forgive**, and **act**, and **give** to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men*

God responds

vv. 38-39

God promised Solomon that He would listen and act upon the humble, repentant person's prayers

2 Chron. 7:14 *“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will **hear** from heaven, and will **forgive** their sin and **heal** their land.”*

Everyone can pray (v43)

*...hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that **all peoples of the earth** may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name*

Everyone can pray (v43)

Solomon knew that God's promise to Abraham
Gen. 12:3 *"I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

The Lord desires everyone to know Him and live in right relationship with Him through Jesus' work on the cross

2 Pet. 3:9 *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

Prayer Deserves Priority

- 1. God is faithful**
- 2. God listens**
- 3. God responds**
- 4. Everyone can pray**

2 Chronicles 7:14

if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.