

## WHY GOD ANSWERS US WHEN WE PRAY

Luke 18:1-8

Part 2 of 3

A second reason that God answers our prayers is his grace.

**GOD'S GRACE.** Grace provides the whole structure and standing of our relationship with God. If it weren't for his forgiving grace, we would have no relationship with him at all. Our sin separates us from God and his forgiveness makes our relationship with him possible. Because of his grace, God is unwilling to rest until the work of transformation is complete. In grace he looks on us and knows that this work isn't done. Although the power of sin has been broken, God knows that the presence of sin remains. He hears our prayers because, when we pray, we confess that we still need the grace of forgiveness and deliverance, and in so doing we place ourselves in the center of what he has committed himself to complete—his work of redemption.

Read 1 John 1.9 and answer the following questions.

- 1) *Have you ever heard anyone say they have no sin?*
- 2) *Do you have sin? Is your sin serious?*
- 3) *Why would someone think that they have no sin or that their sin is not serious?*
- 4) *Is it enough to confess our sins once?*
- 5) *Who do we confess to (ie: who is the one forgiving us?)*

*6) What is confession? Does this refer to confession that leads to salvation (that gives you the relationship with God) or confession that leads to maintaining ones relationship with God. Does it matter?*

Because of his love and grace, God is unwilling to rest until the work of transformation is complete. In grace he looks on us and knows that this work isn't done. Paul writes, "I am sure that the good work God began in you will continue until he completes it on the day when Jesus Christ comes again." Philippians 1:6 ERV

*7) What is an area that God is continuing to work on in your life?*

We've not yet been completely formed into the likeness of his Son but one day we will be. Paul says, "For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us ... reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his image." 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NLT

*8) Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Matthew 5:16. How does your life provide evidence that you are a "new creation" that is pointing people to God?*

*9) If it were possible to take a "spiritual snapshot" of your life right now, what are some ways that you would resemble the world?*

10) *What are some ways you might resemble Christ?*

11) *How can you be transformed into the image of Jesus?*

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