**Prayer Changes Things**

(Psalm 55:17 KJV)

*Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*

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et me open up by saying, "Where has the good old days of fervent prayer gone?" I remember that there was a time when people displayed plaques on their walls that had sayings like, "Prayer Changes Things" and some had images of a pair of clasped hands in prayer hanging on their walls, and there were clasped hands molded into napkin holders which sat on tables. There were all sort of reminders about prayer. But today those things are not seen as much, or even at all anymore. In fact, Christians have always had some difficulties with prayer. Have you? There are Deacons that refuses to pray on Sunday because they don't pray through the week. There are preachers in the pulpit that can't pray but have a preaching license. There are choir members who will sing the song, "I Prayed About It" but in reality the song should be titled "I Stressed About!" So let me ask you this question, "has there ever been a time in your life when prayer actually changed things?" Most prayers said are the same words said the day before and the day before that—meaning that it's a rehearsed prayer, and not a spiritually received prayer.

**Listen! God cannot answer your prayer if your prayer is an:**

a) Unoffered prayers: **James 4:2**

b) Hit 'n run prayers: **Luke 18:1-8**

c) Wavering prayers: **James 1:6-7**

d) Show-off prayers: **Matthew 6:5**

e) Repetitive, wordy prayers: **Matthew 6:7**

f) Selfish prayers: **James 4:3**

g) Misdirected prayers: **1 Kings 18:26-29**

h) Faithless prayers: **Matthew 17:19-20**

**Here's an illustration I'm trying to convey**:

A woman telephone the manager of a large opera house and told him she had lost a valuable diamond pin the night before at the concert. The man told her to hold the phone line while a search was made. Before long the brooch was found, but when he got to the phone, the woman had hung up. He waited for her to call again, and even put a notice in the paper, but he heard nothing further. What a strange and foolish person, we might say, but isn't that the very way some of us pray? We tell the Lord of our needs, but then "fail to hold the line".