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## Prayer Pt 5 God answers our prayers

This is our fifth study on prayer. In our previous teaching we established three points– (i) Protocols– pray to the Father, in Jesus name, and kneel (ii) beware of pretence in prayer– for such is to pray like the hypocrites, (iii) beware of repetitive prayers in vain–for such is to pray like the hypocrites. In this study we establish an additional three points–. (i) God answered the OT saints’ prayers by speaking to the prophets, (ii) Today God answers our prayers through the Holy Spirit, and (iii) the Lord answers our prayers through the Holy Scriptures.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our three points–

### 1. God answered the prayers of the OT by speaking to the prophets

“Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard” (2 Kgs 19: 20).

### 2. Today God answers our prayers through His Holy Spirit

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph 6:18).

### 3. The Lord answers our prayers through Holy scripture

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom.10: 17).

## Illustration

There is something very special in praying, and then turning to the holy scriptures and finding that on the very page you have turned to is God’s reply to your prayer. In this instance He has guided you by His Holy Spirit to open His Holy scriptures at the page He knows where there is an answer from Him – just waiting for you.

### Question of the scriptures

What are the differences between the OT and NT examples and teachings on how God answers prayer?

### Answer from the scriptures

Differences –In the NT there are no examples of God answering by Urim, the prophets or visions (except in the book of Acts 11: 51 – a book of actions of the earlier church). Why did God cease answering the saints via His prophets? Because His perfect word is completed (“is come”) – “For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. [10] But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor.13: 9).

Similarities– in both God there are consequences for those who do not listen– and obey. In the OT it was a sin to reject the word of the Lord, to hearken not to the words of the prophets– 1 Sam.15: 23– “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king”. It is the same today – where we have His pure words. If we do not listen to, and obey His words, then we sin.

Let us not ask God a question where the answer is obvious from the scriptures. And if we do ask may we do so in conjunction with searching the scriptures to establish an answer from His words. Then hearken to those words, for when we pray, and hearken **not** to the holy scriptures we **sin**. It is the same outcome when we pray and ignore the leading of His Holy Spirit– we are being disobedient. Pray, listen & obey!