

YOUTH PRAYS—GOD ANSWERS!

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Dedication

To our Youth everywhere, and to all who are engaged
in training them to be soul winners through the medium of prayer,
this work is affectionately dedicated.

1968

Name: _____

Date: _____

PREFACE

What Is The Prayer of Reception?

There is no such term as "The Prayer of Reception" to be found in the Bible or any other work, so far as we know, except our own lessons and books.

We use this term to distinguish this particular type of prayer from other types of prayer. For instance, there is the prayer of commitment. This prayer commits the answer to the Lord. This prayer says, "If it be Thy will," then do so and so for me, or for another. But the prayer of reception being based on any one of the 3,573 Bible promises, does not say, "if it be Thy will, forgive my sins which I have confessed to Thee", because God has definitely promised in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The prayer of reception does not say, Dear Lord, although I have confessed my sins, and fulfilled the conditions, yet if be Thy will, give me the wisdom I need", because God has already promised, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:5-7.

Therefore, the prayer of reception is based on claiming a Bible promise; for in this type of prayer, "we must ask for the things that He has promised. education, p. 258. Also in this type of prayer, we have the assurance, "The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal. —Ibid.

The author of the book "Education" quotes Mark 11:24 before the statement, "We must ask for the things that He has promised." So the full quotation is as follows: "In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.' Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will, the conditions met, the promise is unequivocal. "—Education, pp: 257-258.

"Believe that ye receive" is the basis of the prayer of reception. We have three wonderful and astonishing quotations from our favorite author which build on this Scripture. They teach us that we have a perfect right to offer a prayer of reception in the present perfect tense. They follow:

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1. “. . . for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.”—*Id.*, p. 258.
2. "So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 51 (Army and Navy edition)
3. "We are to trust in His promises. When we come to Him in faith, every petition enters the heart of God. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it and thank Him that we have received it." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 200.

In both the books, "Steps to Christ" and "The Desire of Ages", the author put the word "have" in italics for emphasis. This agrees with the beloved disciple John who cried out as the Holy Spirit burned in his heart: "We know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." I John 5:15. This disciple was not alone in this divine unction. The gospel writer Matthew heard Jesus Himself declare, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22.

For years these, and other similar statements of Scripture, were fuzzy to us, until we came to learn that this kind of receiving prayer—the prayer of reception—is based on claiming Bible promises; for Jesus made clear: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

It was in this connection that Jesus promised, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you . . . ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:23, 24.

Therefore, the kind of prayer we are dealing with mainly in this book—the prayer of reception—is based on claiming specific Bible promises, after fulfilling their conditions.

The author of the book "Education" makes this very clear when the following statements are made: "How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. 'The seed is the word of God.' Luke 8:11. As sure as the oak is in the acorn, so sure is the gift of God in His promise. If we have the promise, we have the gift." *Education*, p. 253.

Again and again the author of the book "Education" emphasizes that this kind of prayer is based on claiming a Bible promise:

"For pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received."—p. 258.

"We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most." —*Ibid.*

This book, therefore, is written to encourage our faith as we claim Bible promises, having first fulfilled their simple conditions, and having determined that the answers to our prayers will all be used unselfishly to advance the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ in the earth.

The author of this book strongly urges the reader to secure his ten lessons on "The Prayer of Reception". Also "The Study Guide to the Prayer of Reception", a 200 page book; and the "ABC's of Bible Prayer" containing twelve sermons by the author. These deal thoroughly, though not exhaustively, with the "divine science" of claiming Bible promises. We also suggest you secure our book "God's Promises Solve My Problems", a 320 page, hardcover book of classified promises for almost every imaginable time of need. (Now in e-Book on this CD-ROM or website)

The book "Youth Prays: God Answers" is intended primarily to stimulate the faith of those who read, to go farther with God and find a fullness in Christ never before experienced. Because some of the experiences we relate in this book border on the fantastic, we want our readers to know that every chapter is true. Every experience is factual not a mere composite. Names and places have been, in some instances, substituted, to keep confidences, or for other important reasons.

The conversational quotes are not intended to give a verbatim, word-for-word reproduction, but are as nearly the exact words and thoughts expressed as veracity can make them, What you read here has been checked, and in some cases double checked, to make sure of its truthfulness, What God has done for others, He can do for you!

The Author.

FOREWORD

"Answers Like Dominos"

I was seated in the office of one of the leaders of our church, discussing the manuscript I had placed in his hand. What is now titled "Youth Prays—God Answers" was originally titled "The Prayer of Reception".

I was charmed as this man of God shared one personal experience after another of prayer answers which he had received from the hand of God immediately after reading our manuscript. I will give you only a brief sketch from memory of what he shared with me that day.

He said, "Glenn, my wife and I read your manuscript together as we traveled across the continent. As you know, we had received a call to the General Conference, and had listed our home on the West Coast, for sale. We were unable to purchase a home in the Takoma Park area until we sold our home in the West. The real estate broker had announced that, the market being what it was, he could not promise to sell the house in the foreseeable future, and would therefore release us from the listing contract since we were in an emergency. We had to settle in the Takoma Park area before I could meet over-seas appointments already set up. These appointments would keep me away for months. We recognized that we could not be out of the States for these many months without having first sold our home in the West.

"So in this critical situation in which we found ourselves, we decided to follow minutely the science of prayer as outlined in your manuscript. I went to Takoma Park to take care of pressing problems connected with my new work, and my wife returned to the West.

"In a matter of about three days, the house had sold. I was notified to return immediately and sign the sales contract. From then on, answers came thick and fast. We were able to meet appointments like clockwork. So I know this science really works."

With a holy joy he exclaimed, "Glenn, we did not receive just one or two answers to prayer. Actually, the answers came like dominos." Then he opened one of our favorite books entitled "Steps to Christ, by E. G. White, and read the following statement: "So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them." p. 51 (Army and Navy Edition).

INTRODUCTION

God Wanted This Book Written

"Three weeks ago," began a lady whom we shall call Mrs. Nyder, "I had lost all hope. My faith had grown weak, and I was miserable. I was ready to give up everything. The problems of life were crushing me! I was caving in!

"Then you came. You brought God's message to my needy soul. As the meetings progressed, faith began to spring up anew in my breast, and hope's lamp was lighted. Now I am happy in Jesus. Everything has changed. I owe it all to you as God's instrument.

"When I heard the other day that you were praying for a financial loan on the book you were ready to send to press, I talked to the Lord about whether I should be a part of your project. I finally promised Him that if, by the following evening when I went to the meeting, you did not have the money, I myself would take my money out of savings and loan it to you for the publication of the book."

And that is exactly what happened. We had gone to the church on the night referred to. As I walked into the vestibule, my wife, who had preceded me by a few moments, called to me and whispered, "There is someone here who wants to see you about making a loan on the book."

I was excited! Thrilled! I got the name and had the song leader page her for me. Within a matter of moments, Mrs. Nyder and I met, and I heard her make this heaven-inspired offer:

"I want to loan you part of the money needed for the publishing of your book," Mrs. Nyder began.

Later, when my wife and I went to visit Mrs. Nyder, we learned that she was taking her last penny out of savings that she might be a part of this soul winning project—the publication of "YOUTH PRAYS—GOD ANSWERS".

To us, it is delightfully refreshing to trace events from as far back as seven or eight months, when my wife and I were asking God to show us where He wanted us to hold meetings during the fall, winter and spring of 1967-1968. The promises we often claim for guidance as we look forward to the future are: Isaiah 42:16: "I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not."

Proverbs 3:5, 6: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Psalms 32:8: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

James 1:5: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

As we were asking, believing and claiming some of these precious promises last fall, we felt impressed to make a long distance telephone call. It was to St. Helena, California, the area where Mrs. Nyder lives. Of course we never dreamed at that time that there was a Mrs. Nyder there. But God knew all the time. He knew that Mrs. Nyder, and other discouraged hearts, needed a message of assurance that God wants to instruct every soul in the way he should go. God wants to guide everyone with His eye. He is eager to give wisdom to His troubled children.

As we called St. Helena we talked with our old-time friends, Pastor and Mrs. Harold Brown. We explained to them that the president of the Northern California Conference had been wanting us to come to his field for revival services; that on several occasions he had contacted us, but up to now we had been unable to respond to his invitation. However, we had promised him that should we be able to come at a future date, we would let him know. So now we were calling our good friends the Browns, so

they in turn would notify the pastor of the St. Helena church—who had years before invited us for a series of meetings with him—that we were now available. Thus one event led to another, and now we were holding the long-planned meetings in the St. Helena church.

It is thrilling to us to ponder how the very lady, Mrs. Nyder, who had been so discouraged, was to be the one who would loan us a sizeable sum of several thousand dollars for the publication of the book "YOUTH PRAYS-GOD ANSWERS"! (May we add parenthetically here that when Mrs. Nyder offered to loan the money to us, we immediately offered in turn to give her, not merely our note, but also security, in the form of a Deed of Trust to some property we own which is worth more than the money she has so kindly loaned us.)

"I do not want any security," replied Mrs. Nyder, almost insulted that we should offer it. But then as we explained to her that in case anything should happen to my wife and me, she should be protected, she understood and permitted us to do business in a business-like way.

Another interesting fact we learned was that, before Mrs. Nyder was impressed by the Holy Spirit to be a part of our project in the publication of "YOUTH PRAYS—GOD ANSWERS", she had planned to take a much-needed vacation with her elderly mother. But now all the money saved for that purpose was being loaned—even the half dollars and quarter dollars she had so carefully stored away in two little cans.

When we exclaimed that we hesitated to accept her vacation money, Mrs. Nyder answered with a sweet and confident smile, "That is all right. God will take care of that in His own way."

Not merely was the loan of Mrs. Nyder anticipated by our heavenly Father long months before we met her, but other miracles by which we were able to publish "YOUTH PRAYS—GOD ANSWERS", along with a companion book "STUDY GUIDE TO THE PRAYER OF RECEPTION", were equally planned for in advance by our Lord.

Let us share with you some of these providences so you will know, with us, that God wanted this book published. The first relates to our securing a Cadillac car, which in turn made it possible for us to sell our V. W. for enough more cash so that we were able to mail another \$1,350 to the publishers. This is how the Lord worked it out:

Dr. Alvin Dougan, who with his charming wife had invited us to be their guests in their private upstairs apartment during our Napa and St. Helena series of meetings, asked me one day if I would be willing to go and visit a patient or two of his down in Oakland—one patient at least, being a rather famous personality.

With a young alcoholic friend, whom we shall call Jim Tonwag, Dr. Dougan and myself, we started for Oakland. We made the trip in Dr. Dougan's 1954 Cadillac. We had not gone very far before I began to admire this car—almost mint perfect. I had felt for some time that it was not fair for me to use my V. W. Variant for such heavy duty work as to haul a trailer around. Yet I could not, I felt, afford a new larger car. But here was an old car, yet a big one and a good one. I thought out loud, "If only I had a car just like this, it would satisfy my needs in our evangelistic travels."

Dr. Dougan later told a friend that he overheard me, while riding on that trip, praying, "Dear Lord, "please give me a car just like this one."

As Dr. Dougan, Jim and I arrived at the Merritt Hospital in Oakland, we made the visits and returned to his car. Just as we were ready to move out of the parking area, we spied a 1954 Cadillac, driven by an eighty-four-year-old gentleman, Mr. Rosenberg.

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"Excuse me, Dr. Dougan," I exclaimed, "but let me out for a moment." I heard Dr. Dougan and Jim laughing at me as I ran over to the elderly gentleman and his 1954 Cadillac.

"Is this the Cadillac that was for sale?" I inquired pleasantly.

Not expecting to hear such words from a total stranger, Mr. Rosenberg sort of growled back, "No!"

His tone had a finality that should have caused me to have uttered a little apology and run back to the car I was supposed to be in all the while.

But I could not apologize. Something spurred me on and I asked pleasantly again: "Would you consider selling it?"

With a somewhat more pleasant tone in his voice the elderly gentleman asked, "What will you give me for it?"

Very nobly I replied: "I wouldn't think of placing a value on your property." As if perusing a new, yet pleasant train of thought, the gentleman continued, "Would you give me \$500 for it?"

"Could I have your name and address, please sir?" I inquired, stating that we would call on him later. So I jotted down the information—Mr. William Rosenberg, 1850 Alice St. , Oakland, California.

On our return trip to Napa, Dr. Dougan and Jim and I talked about this quick answer to prayer. We decided that since this was Friday afternoon it might run us too close to the Sabbath hours to visit the elderly gentleman that day, so the Doctor volunteered to take us down the following Sunday.

Before we started Sunday, Dr. Dougan, himself a knightly gentleman, called Mr. Rosenberg, asking if Sunday would be satisfactory, or whether any such business would interfere with any religious principles. Receiving a negative reply to the latter question, we were on our way to Alice Street and a multimillion dollar retirement home for Senior Citizens. We walked in to this plush home, inquired for Mr. Rosenberg, and came to the conclusion that any car that was owned by an occupant of this palatial home must be in almost perfect condition.

The question in our minds before we made the trip was whether the car would be worth the full \$500. Jim had suggested we cut the gentleman down to \$350 or perhaps \$400.

To this I replied, "Jim, we must take our religion into our business. We must practice the Golden Rule. If the car, without doubt, is worth the \$500, then we should, without doubt pay that sum. If the car is not worth this amount, then that is a different matter. I mention this because sometimes we expect God to answer our prayers without realizing that there are conditions to answered prayer, and one of these conditions is that we practice the Golden Rule.

Jim was not a professed Christian. In fact, before we made the trip to Oakland that Sunday, Jim, Dr. Dougan and I had gone to look at another old Cadillac right near the doctor's home in Napa.

It was priced at \$250. Jim, a one-time car salesman himself, decided that he would show us how to get the price of the car down. So as we looked at this old car Saturday night, Jim suggested to the gas station operator that he check the compression on the car, and then give a false report to the owner. By so doing the owner would doubtless accept a lesser figure for his car as the test would prove it not worth the asking price.

Later I explained to Jim that a man of the world might feel that this is a shrewd way of doing business, but it has no part in the Christian's business dealing. "The Golden Rule forbids it, Jim,"

I began kindly. "I am not chiding you for your actions. I am merely explaining to you that as a Christian I could not resort to these methods. Neither will I Jew down the old gentleman tomorrow on his 1954

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Cadillac if it proves to be worth the price he is asking." Jim gave grudging assent, but in his heart I am sure he felt I was too naive.

The 1954 Cadillac proved to be almost mint perfect. The paint, the chrome, the tires, the motor, the interior—everything about it, even the radio, was almost perfect.

A day or two later I told one of the pastors where we had meetings that I had purchased a 1954 Cadillac in answer to prayer. He teasingly replied, "You will not be able to sell your Volkswagen, and then you will probably be forced to take a substantial loss on the Cadillac!"

But not so. The V. W. sold for a good price. And the very day it sold we mailed through to the publishers all the cash received for the car which was exactly the amount the publishers required.

Dr. Dougan enjoys relating this miracle experience to his patients. I have related it twice in as many churches. I desired our people to know that what our favorite author states about God's guidance is true, and how others have claimed God's guidance in even the small details of life.

"To Moses faith was no guesswork; it was a reality. He believed that God ruled his life in particular; and in all its details he acknowledged Him." Education, p. 63. So if we will observe the conditions to prayer, including the Golden Rule, we may expect God to guide us in every detail. However, had we been greedy, or had our request been made to satisfy the desire for luxury, this could have been a completely different matter. But our request was made that we might be able to publish the book "YOUTH PRAYS-GOD ANSWERS", as well as another book entitled "THE STUDY GUIDE TO THE PRAYER OF RECEPTION", and still own a car that would meet our needs.

About this same time, a professional friend of ours in Southern California, learning we needed funds with which to defray the expenses of publication, sent us a sizeable check as a loan. We gave him also our personal note, and security in addition.

So, as you read these works, you will rejoice with us in the knowledge that God wanted these books published. He wanted them published that souls might be won to Jesus. He wanted them published so that our youth, as well as those older in years, might be inspired to launch out in the grand business in which all heaven is interested.

Yes, God is in business. The angels are in business. The Holy Spirit is in business. And all who love God are in business too. The business is soul-winning. That business is lifting up the blessed crucified, risen and soon-coming Saviour. It is crying out, "Whosoever will, may take the water of life freely."

You can imagine how thrilled we are to share these experiences with you, our readers. How wonderful is our Lord! We feel somewhat like the little girl in Alabama whom we shall call Ellen.

Little Ellen had prayed and prayed for a bicycle. She had told Jesus she would use the bicycle mostly in missionary work, like enrolling folk in the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence Courses. When, in a thrilling and unexpected manner, her prayer was answered, she ran into the house, knelt with her mother and thanked her Lord for the bicycle and for His wonderful love.

In sharing the experience with us, Ellen closed it with these words: "I hope Jesus comes while I am still a little girl, because I would love to sit on His lap and feel His face."

Some day we shall see the face of Him who so freely gives us all things needful to win souls; that is, when we ask, believe, and claim.

As an added thought regarding what God promises His children, we would like to share with you the following poem which hangs on the wall of the home of our gracious hostess:

WHAT GOD HATH PROMISED

God hath not promised skies always blue.
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light on the way;
Grace for the trial, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

My wife, who has labored so earnestly, even into the small hours of the morning, typing, correcting and editing this work, has fallen on her knees with me, dedicating this little work to our Youth everywhere. May it inspire to "unfailing Sympathy, undying love" for souls out of Christ; and for those also who are bruised and buffeted by the enemy until the last spark of hope seems quenched.

May the A, B, C's of the prayer of reception work for other young people, and their elders, even as it has worked for those whose experiences are revealed in this work. This is: the dedicated purpose of this book. And may you, the reader, cry out with us: "YOUTH PRAYS—GOD ANSWERS"!

The Author

Youth Prays: God Answers

Questions and Suggestive Answers

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The questions, with the suggestive answers, are based on the chapters in this book. They are based on material prepared by Mrs. Gretchen Pike, a young lady whose soul was blessed in reading the book.

We would suggest that throughout these studies, you first read the chapters indicated, then try to answer the questions. You might wish to first do the answers in pencil without referring to the key answers, turning to them only when you feel you need to.

QUIZ

Preface; Foreword; and Introduction.

1. Define the prayer of reception.

2. Define the prayer of commitment.

3. Give two examples of the use of the prayer of reception.

4. Give an example of the prayer of commitment. (Not given in the lesson, but all of us have prayed an "if it be Thy will" type of prayer.)

5. Complete: The prayer of reception is based on claiming _____ .
6. What assurance do we have when praying a prayer of reception? _____
_____.
7. How many Bible promises, at least, are there? _____.
8. True or false: When we pray a prayer of reception, we are to state, "if it is Thy will." _____
9. Name two conditions in order for the promise to be fulfilled unequivocally; that is, without doubt.
 - a.

 - b.

10. Complete: " ... for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to _____ that we receive, and return thanks to God that we _____ received."
11. True or false: "In the prayer of faith there is a divine science." _____.
12. Complete: The prayer of reception is based on claiming _____ Bible promises.
13. Complete: "If we are _____ to do His will, all His strength is ours."
14. True or false: We should look for outward evidence of the blessing before we believe we have received it. _____.