

## PRAYERS OFFERED IN FAITH

Revelation 8:1-5

### Introduction

- A. God's ultimate plan is to save people from e\_\_\_\_\_ tribe, tongue, nation, and people (Rev 5:9) through believers (Matt 24:14; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:13-17).
1. We can be a h\_\_\_\_\_ to that plan.
    - a. P\_\_\_\_\_ was a hindrance to Jesus (Matt 16:23)
    - b. Paul worked as a tentmaker so as not to be a hindrance to the progress of the g\_\_\_\_\_ (1Cor 9:12)
    - c. Moses refusal to be the public speaker for God made the process of getting the message to the people t\_\_\_\_\_ as long (Ex 4:14-16).
  2. We can be a h\_\_\_\_\_ to that plan – the key is to be a person of prayer.
- B. Rev 8:1-5 reveals the prayers of all s\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. believers)
1. These prayers are a vision of a\_\_\_\_\_ the prayers which you and I have offered to God and He has accepted.
  2. All prayers offered in faith are pictured in this vision as relating to God's a\_\_\_\_\_ of bringing about the coming of Christ (the seventh seal in verse 1 is opened and the half-hour s\_\_\_\_\_ is a picture of anticipation).
    - a. 2Pet 3:12 states that we can h\_\_\_\_\_ on the Day of the coming of God (context tells us this is the coming of Christ).
    - b. Will you work at being a person of prayer (offered in faith) so as not to be a hindrance but a hastener of God's ultimate plan?

### Only prayers offered in faith r\_\_\_\_\_ God (3)

- A. The vision puts all prayers of all saints on the golden a\_\_\_\_\_
1. In the O.T. temple system, the High Priest burned i\_\_\_\_\_ on this altar every morning and evening so that it was always burning before the Lord (Ex 30:8).
  2. S\_\_\_\_\_ incense was never to be offered to the Lord (Ex 30:9) – defined as something different than what God requires.

B. What constitutes strange incense or strange prayers?

1. Praying to be s\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 6:5)
2. Praying without m\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 6:7)

C. What constitutes a prayer of faith?

1. Requires that we be in r\_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and His w\_\_\_\_\_ be actively lived out in our everyday lives (Jn 15:7)
2. Requires that we base our prayers on His w\_\_\_\_\_ (1Jn 5:14,15)
3. Require t\_\_\_\_\_ and e\_\_\_\_\_ (see Matt 26:38-40).

**Prayers offered in faith m\_\_\_\_\_ God (4,5)**

A. The vision pictures the smoke of the incense r\_\_\_\_\_ up to God with the prayers of all saints of all time and its results.

1. The angel takes the censor and fills it with fire from the altar of incense and throws it to the e\_\_\_\_\_.
2. There follows peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning (see Rev 4:5 – showing that God is not idle while sitting on the throne, but a\_\_\_\_\_).
3. Then the action of bringing about the second coming of Christ occurs.

B. Prayers that stir God to act.

1. Biblical Examples:

- a. Ex 32:10-14 – Moses' prayer c\_\_\_\_\_ God's mind.
- b. 2 Kgs 20:1-6 – Hezekiah's prayer got him \_\_\_\_\_ more years of life.

2. Biblical teachings:

- a. Jms 4:2,3 – you do not have because you have s\_\_\_\_\_ asking.
- b. Jms 1:6-8 – if you lack w\_\_\_\_\_ in facing a trial, continually ask God t\_\_\_\_\_ that He will give it and He will!
- c. Matt 7:7,8 – A\_\_\_\_\_, S\_\_\_\_\_, K\_\_\_\_\_

- C. How are all prayers important in bringing about the second coming? – helps us live holy and godly lives which 2Pet 3:12 states hurries on Christ's coming.
1. Petition – As we continually ask for various things based on His word (Jn 15:7) we stay d\_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord.
  2. Confession – literally means to view the s\_\_\_\_\_ and so, true confession views sin as God does.
    - a. Involves r\_\_\_\_\_ from sin
    - b. Involves a\_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
    - c. Makes you u\_\_\_\_\_ to the Master in fulfilling His plans (2 Tim 2:21)
  3. Thanksgiving – 1 Thess 5:18 – gives us the proper a\_\_\_\_\_ in all our situations which demonstrates holiness and godliness.
  4. Praise – keeps the proper perspective as we recognize who God is in relationship to us (see sermon – Praise, the Proper Perspective from Rev 1:5,6).

*Are you a hinderer or a hastener of Christ's coming? Develop your prayer life by practicing the above.*