The Guarantee of Answered Prayer

Matthew 7:7-12

1. Ask (Matt 7:7-8)

    A. With pure motives (Jer 29:12-13; Ps 66:18; James 4:3)

    B. In faith (Matt 21:22; James 1:5-8)

    C. In God's name (John 14:13-14; 16:23-24

    D. According to God's will (1 John 5:14-15; Rom 8:26-27)

    E. For good and not ill

2. Trust (Matt 7-9-11)

    A. Good givers give good gifts

    B. The best possible giver gives the best possible gift (Luke 11:13)!

3. Do! (Matt 7:12)

    A. The Golden Rule (Jesus)

    B. The Silver Rule (Confucius, Rabbi Hillel)

    C. Faith is active! (Matt 25: 14-30; James 2:17, 26)

Five Practical Questions about Prayer

1. Does God always answer "yes, no, or wait"? (2 Cor 12:7-10)

2. Why pray if everything is settled in advance? (Matt 6:8; James 4:2)

3. Can I pray for small things? (Matt 6:11, 26-30; Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:17)

4. Does unanswered prayer mean lack of faith? (Luke 22:41ff; Mark 9:14-29; 1 Thess 5:19)

5. What if I don't know what to pray? (Rom 8:26-27)