

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – July 19, 2020

Theme: The Certainty of God's Word **Topic:** God's Promise of Answered Prayers.

Main Text: John 15: 1-17

Key verse: John 15:7 *'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.'* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The Westminster Catechism defines prayers as "an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies." Prayer is probably one of the most confusing concepts in Christianity. Our topic today adds to that confusion when one considers numerous unanswered prayers. However, our focus for today is God's staggering promise to grant our every desire in prayer: *'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.'* (John 15:7 NKJV).

1. (a) What is your first impression of our key verse for today? (b) How do God's answers to your prayers compare with this promise in John 15:7? (c) How do you think Jesus wants believers to understand this promise?

Certainly, Jesus meant it when HE said, *'... you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!'* (John 15:7b NLT). Believers can have whatever they pray for. But before making this staggering pronouncement, five times HE used the phrase 'abide in Me' and then capped it off with *"... for without Me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5b). After hammering on our need to abide, Jesus goes on to also emphasize His desire for us to bear fruit. And about fruitfulness, He again offers us the blank cheque *'... I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.'* (John 15:16 NLT) He re-echoes this offer in John 16:23 *'I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and He will grant your request because you use My name.'*

2. (a) How do you understand what seems to be two conditions for our every prayer being answered "if you abide in Me and My words abide in you... I appointed you to go and bear fruit so that the Father will give you whatever you ask..."? (b) How should this awareness shape our prayer? (c) Looking at John 15:1-17 and 1 John 5:14-15, how should we understand praying in Jesus' Name?

So, God really wants to answer our every prayer. But He wants to be sure that He is handing His treasures to the right person – those who ask in His name (John 14:13) and who seek God's glory in their asking. So, when He taught His disciples to pray, He said, *"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."* (Luke 11:2-4 NKJV). Like someone said, 'Prayer is the pursuit of God's will and His kingdom.' No wonder Jesus said, *'So if you, sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.'* (Luke 11:13)

3. (a) What are examples of the kinds of fruit which Jesus was referring to as conditions to answered prayers? (b) How does the foregoing help your understanding of God's promise to grant all we desire? (c) As you think about your own prayers, in what ways do you see a need to realign them to fit with John 15:17?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us access to the Father. Help us to fix our mind on things above so that our prayers will always align with Your will. Amen.