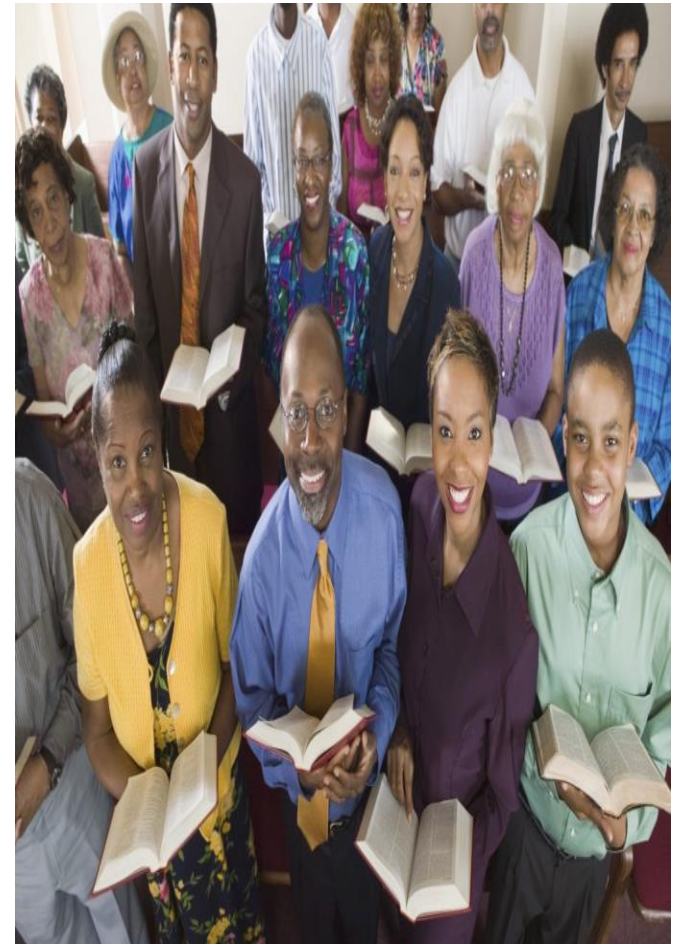



# Blessed Hope Bible Church

[www.bhbcbstl.org](http://www.bhbcbstl.org)



***Learning ...  
Loving ...  
Leaning ...  
Living ...  
Leading ...  
By the Word  
of God***



A large crowd of black human icons, some male and some female, arranged in a loose, circular pattern. Two red human icons stand out from the crowd, positioned slightly to the left of the center. The icons are simple, stylized figures with no facial features.

# Preaching theme

# 1 JOHN

finding what's real in a world of fake

# **THE ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER**

1 John 5:14-15

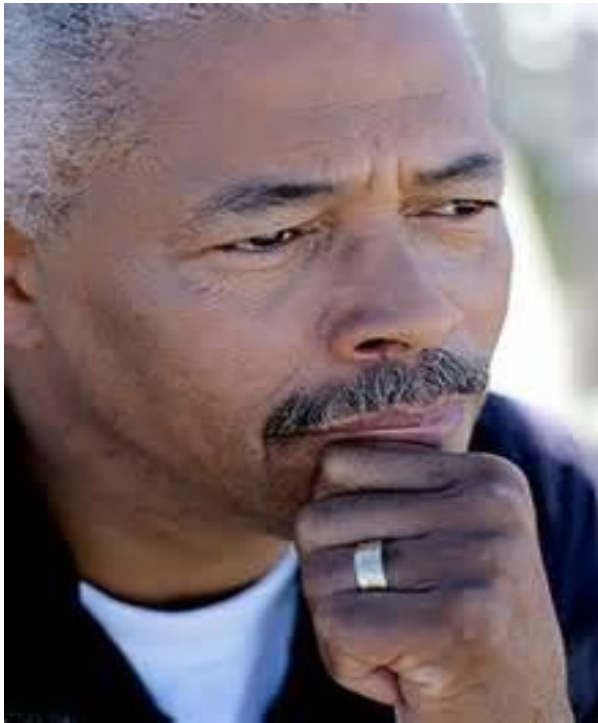
The Christian life is a life of **assurance**,  
Not **doubt**,  
Not **fear**,  
Not **uncertainty**.

- A Christian **knows** the truth (1John 2:21), and can distinguish the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (1John 4:2,6).
- A Christian **knows** the Lord (1John 2:3) and **knows** that the Lord abides in Him (1John 2:5; 3:4) and that he abides in the Lord (1John 4:13).
- A Christian **knows** that when Christ is revealed, he shall be like Him, for he shall see Him as He is (1John 3:2)
- A Christian **knows** that he has passed from death to life (1John 3:14), and that he has eternal life (1John 5:13)

A Believer in Christ can  
**know** that God will  
respond to his/her prayer  
request!

# THE BIG QUESTION

What gives a believer confidence that God will respond to his/her prayers?



# There are three important Acknowledgements that give confidence for answered prayer

- **Acknowledgement #1:** The Knowledge that what we ask for is in accordance with God's will
- **Acknowledgement #2:** The knowledge that God hears us favorably
- **Acknowledgement #3:** The knowledge that God will grant the requests that are asked of Him



# The Knowledge that what we ask for is in Accordance with God's Will

- **THE TEXT:** “ If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
- **THE PROBLEM:** Most of our prayers are selfish prayers.
- **THE ISSUE:** Prayer is a mighty instrument, NOT for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done on earth!



Thanks to Christopher Carver

04-28-2008

I THINK I NEED TO SET UP A SPAM FILTER  
TO CATCH LOTTERY PRAYER REQUESTS

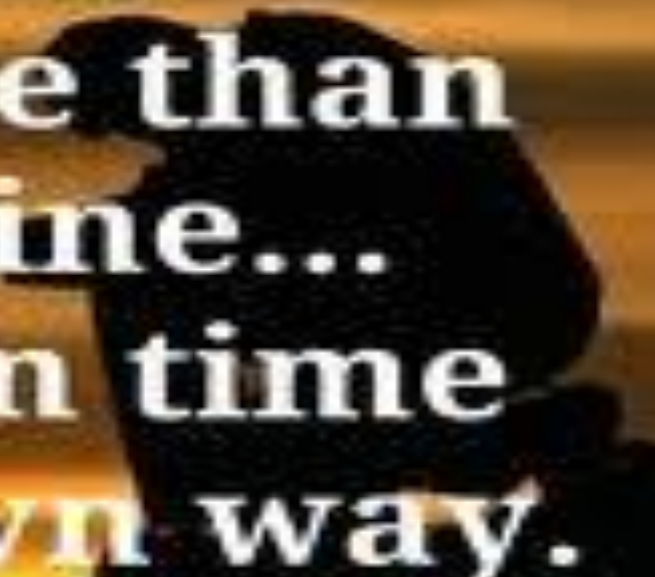
- **THE QUESTION:** How can we know that we are asking for something in accordance with the will of God?
  - Does it agree with the written Word of God?
  - Is it expedient, that is, is it helpful?
    - Does it meet a real need or is it for selfish personal gratification?
    - Does it encourage, strengthen, help, and edify others, or does it provoke them to anger or cause them to stumble?
  - Will it bring glory to God publicly before men?

# The Knowledge that God Hears us Favorably

- **THE TEXT:** “If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
- **THE CONFIDENCE:** If our request are in accordance with God’s revealed will, God will hear us.
- **THE PROBLEM:** Many of us are praying, but God is NOT responding to our prayers!!

- **THE QUESTION:** How can we know that God hears us when we pray?
  - Is the prayer in agreement with the Word of God?
  - Are we keeping His commandments with a clear conscience, or are we living in blatant sin?
  - Are we abiding in Christ, that is living in fellowship with Him unhindered by unconfessed sin?
  - Are we praying with a repentant attitude?

**When we pray,  
God hears more  
than we say,  
answers more than  
we ask,  
gives more than  
we imagine...  
in HIS own time  
and HIS own way.**

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in profile, facing right, with their hands clasped in prayer. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise sky with horizontal cloud bands.

# The Knowledge that God will Grant the Request that are asked of Him

- **THE TEXT:** “And if we **know** that He hears us, whatever we ask, we **know** that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”
- **THE PROBLEM:** Many of us subconsciously have unrealistic expectations of God in prayer.
  - Some of us think that God should respond **immediately** to our prayers.
  - Some of us think that God should **suspend** or reverse the laws of nature or the cycle of life and death for us.
  - Some of us think that God should do **whatever** we tell Him to do

- **THE QUESTION:** How can we know that God will grant our prayer request?
  - Is it something in accordance with the revealed will of God?
  - Was it asked for in faith?
  - Is it something that is helpful or beneficial to others?
  - Is it something that will bring public glory to God?
  - Illustration: Paul asked God to take a thorn in the flesh away. But that thorn in the flesh showed that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. Paul's prayer changed—praying that God would be glorified in his physical infirmities. 2Cor.12:7-10



**“Our Lord in His teaching  
regarding prayer never  
once referred to  
unanswered prayer;  
He said God always  
answers prayer.”**

*Oswald Chambers*

- **Special Note:** We spend a lot of time worrying about unanswered prayer.
  - This is because our prayers are **selfish** and our love and service to God is **conditioned** upon what God does for us.
- A Christian can know that if he/she ask anything according to God's will, God hears him/her and grant the petition.
  - This implies that the Christian **knows** what God's will is!!
  - This implies that what the Christian **wants** is what God **wants**. The Christian **wants** what God wants!
  - **Illustration:** Many Christian are asking God for a spouse (that is selfish). The prayer should be, "make me a loving husband/wife for the welfare of the one I marry, for an example to the saints and the world, for the cause of Christ, for the glory of God.

# **CHALLENGE**

Do you have confidence in  
your prayers

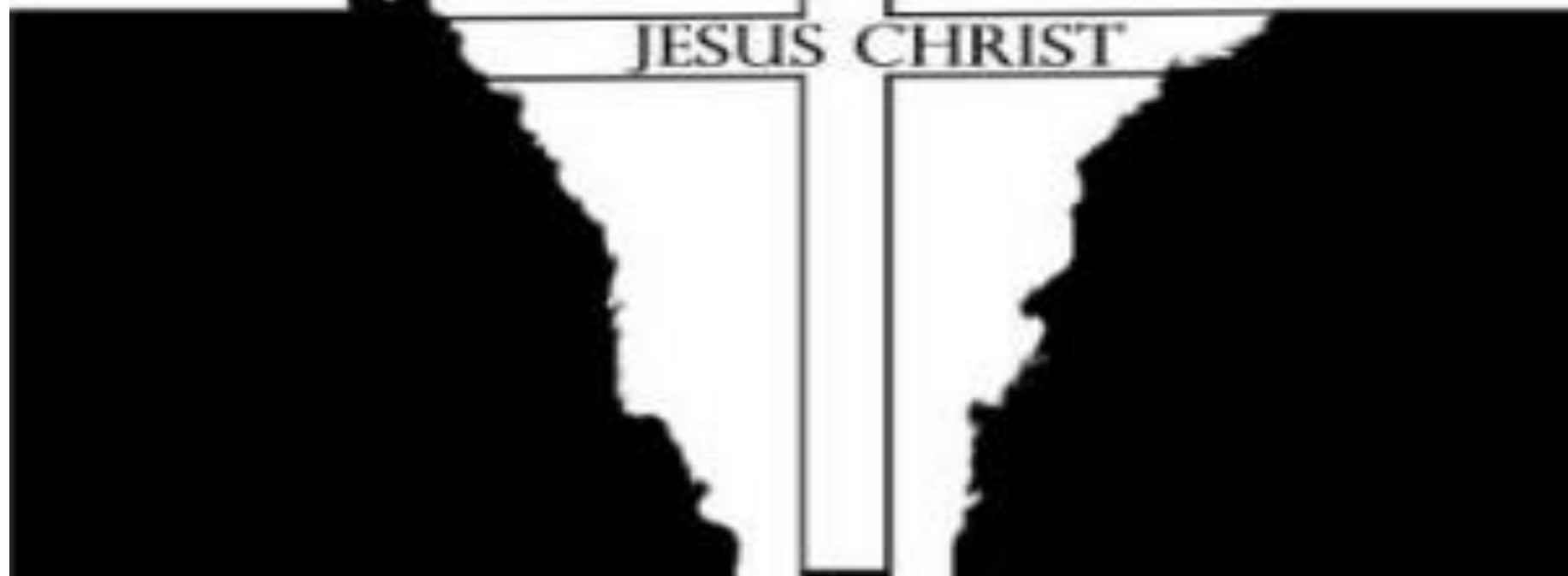
RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR  
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



GOD HAS PROVIDED THE  
ONLY WAY...WE MUST MAKE  
THE CHOICE



JESUS CHRIST



1. **Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
2. **Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
3. **Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.