

LESSON #4 –Christian's Call and The Father Really Listens

A CHRISTIAN'S CALL – When our Savior walked among us, He told us to have the faith of a little child. For us 'old timers, this lesson reminds us of our need to trust the good and gracious will of God.

THE PRAYER – We begin with prayer: Dear Lord, send Your Spirit upon us so that we may know that You are always a loving Father. Remove all of the doubts that plague our questioning hearts. Let us trust that You have our best interests at heart and will always do what is right for Your children. This we pray in the Name of Your Son, Who taught us to pray, "Thy will be done." Amen.

ILLUSTRATION - Sometimes we pray with faith that we WON'T BE ANSWERED. Listen to the story of your leader and answer the questions which follow.

Do you think God can perform such a miracle? YES/NO Do you think He does? YES/NO
If you had been the pastor, would you have been surprised? _____
What would have surprised you? _____

SATAN'S SUMMONS – Satan relishes it if we say our prayers without hope of reply. He loves it if our prayers remain merely human words, unconnected to God's will and removed from His power and grace.

Take a look at the public prayer list of your congregation. Then rate how sure you are of an answer...

LIST PRAYER ITEM	WILL HAPPEN	MIGHT HAPPEN	WON'T HAPPEN

THOUGHT: We know that one of the joys and great comforts of being a Christian is to be positive that God **does** listen when we call upon Him. God cares, and He is willing to show that care in any number of ways. Look at these Scripture passages and answer the following questions:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 – As we read the Bible, we expect God to respond to His prophets, people and Apostles when they call on Him. Take a look at Moses and see how the Lord responds:

TEXT	WHAT DOES GOD DO?	AND THEN ...
Ex. 14: 15, 26-28		
Ex. 15: 25		
Ex. 17: 4-6		
Num. 12: 1-15		

APPLICATION AND STORY: In the story of Moses, we know that God cares. But does He care about us the same way?

Years ago, a twelve-car train took an eastern-Missouri Sunday School on a picnic. They had not covered 25 miles when a tremendous thunderstorm began. The engineer, worried the downpour might cause a washout or spread the rails, slowed the train down. As the train swung around a curve, he was able to peer through the curtain of rain. What he saw, spelled disaster. The switch ahead was open. Trying to minimize the oncoming disaster, he closed the throttle and threw on the brakes. "Stick to it," he shouted to his fireman, "hundreds of children are on board." "I mean to," was the praying fireman's reply. "God help us all!" In case you missed it, that was a prayer.

Before we go any farther, how would you expect this story to conclude?

50 years ago, it would have ended with _____

In today's pessimistic age, it would end with _____

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

Here's how it really ended. The fireman's prayer was muffled by a crash of thunder and a flash of lightning. The next thing the men knew, they were safely past the danger spot. After they stopped, the engineer and conductor hurried back to see what had happened. They found lightning had struck the switch box and closed the track. The engineer said, "This is the will of God." Answer the questions below and rank your answers 1, 2, 3.

READING THIS, WOULD YOU SAY THIS WAS: ___ **AN ANSWER TO PRAYER** ___ **A COINCIDENCE** ___ **GOD'S WILL**
IF YOU HAD BEEN ON THE TRAIN, WOULD IT BE: ___ **AN ANSWER TO PRAYER** ___ **A COINCIDENCE** ___ **GOD'S WILL**
HOW DOES GOD SHOW HIS WILL TODAY? ___ **IN ANSWERING OUR PRAYER** ___ **BY COINCIDENCES** ___ **HE DOESN'T**

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL – Every day, in a multitude of ways, the Lord protects us. In our second Scripture search look at one Psalm and see the things which are God's will, for which we should call to Him in thanks ...

TEXT	EVENT	WHOSE WILL WAS ANSWERED
Psalm 145: 3	How great is God?	_____
v. 8	What is God's Will to us?	_____
v. 13	How long will this last?	_____
v. 14	What is His Will?	_____
v. 15	To whom, and how often does God give food?	_____
v. 17	To whom will the Lord be loving?	_____
v. 19	What is God's Will?	_____
v. 20	Will this last forever?	_____

What then is our duty to the Lord Whose Will is that we be blessed in such a way?

Psalm 145: 1 _____ v. 21 _____

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION - We may never understand the Will of God, or the many ways in which He acts. We can be sure that He cares for us. Join us in giving thanks for His protection, seen and unseen.

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord, for all Your preservation, I give thanks ---for that of which I am aware and that which I do not know. In Jesus' Name. Amen.