

# Prayer That God Answers

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Our subject this morning: "Prayer That God Answers," Prayer That God Answers.

We might ask the question, "Do our prayers reach God?" Because I'm sure all of us in our Souls know that God does watch over and does take care of His children. But perhaps, there are some laws and some requisites that we are not completing, and, therefore, our prayers go unanswered. I think we should realize that.

For instance, take the sunlight. The sunlight is free for everyone. But do we get into the sunlight? And being in the sunlight, do we receive the Presence of God, which is in the sunlight, through our right attitude of consciousness, and the distribution, and the proper way of the Life Force in the body? So, you see, there is a reason for our prayers not being answered. To put it more explicitly, "Do we get into the Presence of God?" How can we expect Him to hear us unless we are in His Presence in a conscious way – unless we are in His Presence and we give Him an attention that demands His answer? That's the first point.

And the second point is, being in His Presence, do we pray effectively? Think of these two things. Those are the only two things you have to be sure of. First that you attain the Presence of God, and being in His Presence that you pray to Him in the right way, that you pray to Him feeling the Great Love in your heart, and the same Love which He feels for you. Those are the only two things you have to know. Try and realize that. I think perhaps, the greatest thing is to get into the Presence of God. Brother Lawrence<sup>1</sup> says, "Get into the Presence of God." Being in His Presence, all things will come, even the answer to your prayers.

And so, just one or two words from the Master on this first point before we go on, from the Autobiography,<sup>2</sup> substantiating what I have said, that we all know in our Souls that God is watching over us. He created us, and later we will learn

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<sup>1</sup> **Brother Lawrence** (c. 1614 - [February 12, 1691](#)) was a lay brother in a [Carmelite monastery](#), who is today most commonly remembered for the closeness of his relationship to [God](#) as recorded in the classic [Christian](#) text, *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

<sup>2</sup> Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Edition 1946 may be downloaded for free from various Internet sites.

this morning, that Love is the Greatest Force in the Universe, the Greatest Motivating Force that ever was, and will be, God's Love, and yet we doubt it.

Here the Master says, "The Lord responds to all and works for all. He fulfills any sincere desire of the devotee...Seldom do men realize how often God heeds their prayers. He is not partial to a few, but listens to everyone that approaches Him trustfully. His children should ever have implicit faith in the loving-kindness of their Omnipresent Father."<sup>3</sup>

Now there we have the answer: "...to everyone that approaches Him..." If you're asking me something here and I'm outside, can you expect me to answer it? And then when you ask me, you ask me in a half-hearted way and you don't know whether I'm any good or not. Can I answer that? Will that prayer be answered? No. So, in these few words of the Master, "...everyone that approaches Him..." that is, get into His Presence, "trustfully..." and asks Him the right way, with trust and faith – God answers to those.

And then in Psalms, the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Verse: "He that planteth the ear, shall he not hear? he that formeth the eye, shall he not see?" "...he that teacheth man knowledge, shall he not know?" (Sic) We don't have faith enough in God, and we don't have faith enough, because we don't love Him enough, that's all. That's what it means to pray effectively; to pray first, feeling the Love of God, then ask Him. First, get into His Presence. Then, ask Him, with full faith. And that full faith comes only when you really love God.

So, first, let us take the question, getting into the Presence of God. How? Learn the science of yoga. Learn the science of yoga, and this will teach you how to turn your mind and your consciousness Godward – not outward into outward consciousness. Learn the science of yoga, which many of you know who follow the Self-Realization yoga teachings. Learn the science of yoga. Yoga means "union," union with God. So how can you attain union, unless you first attain His Presence? So that's the first requisite.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Chapter 15, "You see how God feels for us," Master replied after I had expressed my gratitude. "The Lord responds to all and works for all. Just as He sent rain at my plea, so He fulfills any sincere desire of the devotee. Seldom do men realize how often God heeds their prayers. He is not partial to a few, but listens to everyone who approaches Him trustfully. His children should ever have implicit faith in the loving-kindness of their Omnipresent Father." [Yogananda quoting Sri Yukteswar]

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 94:9-10, "He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?" "He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?"

And then, the Cosmic Sound, the Great Cosmic Sound of Om, the Amen, the Word, is the Presence of God. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God."<sup>5</sup> Could it be any clearer? If you wanna get in the Presence of God, hear the Cosmic Sound, see the Cosmic Light, which is a vibration, the Holy Vibration, the Holy Ghost, the Word. Feel in them God's Love. Then you're in His Presence. There is no other way. It's very clear. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God," or is God. Now, if you wanna get into His Presence, follow your yoga, follow the Self-Realization techniques. They will give you the Presence of God. You know the techniques, the highest technique, highest yoga technique of concentration is our first one. And the second one is the highest technique of meditation.

And so, it takes will and determination to do them, doesn't it? It takes will and determination to turn your attention from outward things to the Presence of God within. It takes will and determination to gather together the scattered consciousness and Life Force, which is diffused throughout our body into sensation, and mind, and intellect. It takes will and determination not to give up until you've gathered it together. And having gathered it together, then you can place it on the Presence of God, as the Great Holy Vibration, the Word, the Amen, the Comforter of which Jesus spoke.

Things of this world and universe are simple, but we make them complicated. First get into the Presence of God. Know the Holy Vibration through yoga, and then use the next technique of Self-Realization, the highest technique of meditation, which means placing that gathered attention and consciousness which you are on the Presence of God within, as the Holy Vibration. There you will know that He exists. Knowing He exists, then when you pray it is effective, if you pray in the right way.

And so, it takes great will and determination. It also takes faith. But understand that faith comes only when you're sure God exists. If you are not sure I, I'm existing here, you naturally cannot have faith in me. But when we are sure, through our meditations that God is, when you hear the Cosmic Sound of Om, and see this Great Light at the Christ Center, and feel His Love, you know God exists. There's no question in your mind. And then, when you pray, you pray with faith, because knowing God exists, you feel His Love, which is in the Holy

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<sup>5</sup> St. John 1:1

Vibration. You feel it right within yourself, as your very being and existence. Don't cha think that will give you faith?

So, faith doesn't come from external means of the mind – mind, senses, or intellect. Faith comes by oneness with God; by being one with the Presence of God within. Then, and only then can you have faith, because then, and only then do you know God is. Knowing He is, it's very easy to love Him, because God is Love. In that Great Holy Vibration of which Jesus spoke, in the Comforter, is God's Great Feeling, and that Feeling is Love, the Greatest Force in the Universe, which I will come to in a minute.

And so understand, when, when this...you attain this breathless state of God's Presence, when through the practice of yoga you feel the breath slow down, the heart slow down, and the breath slow down, and in that breathless state you can feel God. But you cannot feel Him when ya huh-a-huh [Doctor breathes in and out quickly], jumping all around, and the mind is running here, or then, or there. But in that breathless, quiet state, through faith, you know God exists. Now, knowing He exists, you'll know you're in His Presence, naturally. And knowing you're in His Presence, you'll know that sooner or later He will answer your prayer. That's why, or that's the prayer that God answers; the prayer that reaches Him, and the prayer that is backed up, not by just the mind, but by the fervor of the heart.

Now, our Master has said in his little booklet, How You Can Talk With God,<sup>6</sup> he has said that the average man prays to God with his mind. That is he prays to God with his intellect. "Very few," says the Master, "pray to God with the fervor of the heart." And that's the prayer that moves God. So realize that one thing. When you pray, do not pray in parrot-like fash...fashion, but first feel the Love of God. That's a very important point. And you can feel it by getting into His Presence, because God is Love.

And so, Master has this to say, in his little book, which I'd like to read you at this time, just a little part of it. He says concerning this way of praying with the mind rather than with the fervor of the heart. Did you ever try to get somebody to do something for you and just do it in an academic way? Ya don't get very far, but ya gotta get down, and just get in the fervor of your Soul, then they'll do something. If you're a good salesman, that's what you use, you use the fervor of your being. So in prayer, we must not just pray academically, with the mind, but

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<sup>6</sup> Published by Self-Realization Fellowship, 1957, 40 Pages

we must feel, we must feel the Presence of God, and then pray. So Master has this to say substantiating what I have said.

“When a lover mechanically protests his devotion, his beloved knows that his words are not sincere.” Why? Because there’s no feeling in them. “Similarly, when God’s devotees pray to Him, He knows if their hearts and minds are dry or if their thoughts are dashing wildly everywhere. He does not respond to their half-hearted calls. But to those devotees who day and night, with utmost intensity, pray and talk to Him through the love which they feel for Him and which He feels for them, to such devotees He will come without fail.”

So, you see there are only two things: get into the Presence of God, and then feel His Love, which is there in you – more in Him. Because our Master has said, “God loves us more than we love Him. He is crying for us more than we are crying for Him.” Just you can see if we do a little bit, God must answer.

Then Master goes on in another little paragraph: “The Lord will not come if you just say a little prayer and then start thinking of something else.” Like this prayer, he says, “Heavenly Father, I am calling to you, but I’m awful sleepy. Amen.” Well, God will not answer, naturally, that way. So, we must do as Paul. Paul says, “Pray without ceasing.”<sup>7</sup> Remember that little poem of the Master, “God! God! God!” As you go about your daily duties, say that: God! God! God! That’s the greatest thing to lift one from the outward consciousness of the mind and intellect to the Intuition of the Soul, through which we contact and feel, and should pray to God. And so, these different things about prayer must be understood. Prayer must be done in a proper way. Prayer must be according to the Law of Prayer.

One little matter comes to my mind about the...prayer, which was taken up in Sunday school...was discussed. It is that prayer, known as “grace,” which we say before we eat. And so, the Sunday school teacher thought, “Well, this Deacon’s son, he should know something about grace. So he said, “Tommy,” he said, “What is that uh, uh, what is that prayer that your father says, or what does your father say just before, just as you sit down to eat?” Tommy says, he says uh, “Father says, uh, go easy on the butter, kid, its awful expensive now.”

Prayer must not be of that kind. And then another prayer comes to my mind, just to show you that that there are various kinds of prayer. This fellow that had

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<sup>7</sup> I Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.”

the...he had the reputation of sleeping in his pew in church. So he spoke to the minister as he started down, he said, "Reverend," he said, "What prayer should I use?" And the minister said, "Well," he says, "As I think of it," he says, "The best prayer that you should use goes like this... 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'"

So prayer is a wonderful thing, isn't it? But, to be effective it must touch God, and we touch God through His Love.

Now, going on just a little bit about prayer; in the lives of those who love God, in the lives of those who love God, the percentage of answered prayer is very high. Realize that. We can all see that what we must do is to learn to love God. What are the two Great Commandments, Greatest Commandments? The first, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy strength and thy heart and thy mind..."<sup>8</sup> or words to that effect. And the second is that you shall love one another in the same way, as yourself.<sup>9</sup>

Now then, it says, "On these two Commandments..." – listen carefully – "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."<sup>10</sup> Not just "some," "...all the law and the prophets." Therefore, on those two commandments hang the Law of Prayer. That's why I've said, before you pray, *feel* God's Love. Feel it! Then, whatever you say will be effective. Because what you say through the love which you feel for God in your heart, is the greatest moving force in the universe.

When devotees meditate and try, sincerely, to pierce the veil which stands between them and God, when they try sincerely, through love – not through just other means – but through the love which they feel for God in their heart, that effort does more good in the world than all the prayers of all the people and all the saints put together. Can you not see what Power God's Love is? Once more I'll tell you. If you wanna do good in the world, meditate, and try to pierce that veil which stands between you and God by *feeling* that you want only one thing, and that is God alone – nothing else. And the effort that you give to do that, does more good in the world than the prayers of all the people that were ever born, and will be born, the prayers of all the saints put together. Can't you see

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 22:37 and 39, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 22:40, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

what God's Love is? God's Love is the Greatest Force in the Universe. God is Love. Let us understand that.

And so, those who really love God, their prayers, to the greater part of the time, are answered, because God is Love, and, therefore, Divine Love is the Greatest Force in the Universe. Divine Love, or the Law, Divine Law of Love is the greatest thing to be considered in prayer, because it is the Greatest Motivating Force there is. God created this universe, how? Through Love, through His Feeling, and through the Power of His Feeling. That's why God, God's Love, is so great and so wonderful. It's the Greatest Motivating Force. Do not forget that.

If someone is against you, give them love. If you want God to do something for you, feel His Love and ask Him in that Love. If you are under certain conditions which are not desirable and you cannot see how to cope with them, give it to God through His Love. That's the way to fix it. That's the way to have it taken care of, when you cannot handle it. Then God has Mercy upon us, and Compassion, and takes care of things. So easily, He does it. Realize that Divine Love is the Supreme Law of Prayer, as all other things.

And so, Love is the Great Motivating Power of the Universe. It is the Greatest Drawing Power of the Universe. You know Jesus' words, "None can come unto me unless the Heavenly Father draweth him."<sup>11</sup> (*Sic*) And the very fact that you are drawn here to worship God, the very fact that you are drawn to meditation, realize, is the Grace of God. Many, many, many people could not think of meditating. Many, many, many people could not come to a service like this. They couldn't stay here. The vibration is too high for them. Why can you stay? Because, by the Grace of God, through His Grace, your consciousness is elevated so that you receive His Great Love and His High Vibration. That's why you can stay here. The Divine Law of Love is the greatest thing in the universe. It is the Supreme Law of all things, and especially prayer.

Now, nations and armies are very powerful. You look over history and you'll see the conquest of the different nations and the leaders. They have done tremendous things. They are powerful. Also, Captains of Industry, Captains of Industry, also, are very powerful. They have done wonderful things. Nature and Her Forces, we have to watch them. They're very strong. We see upheavals, and we wonder what it's all about, because those forces are strong and powerful.

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<sup>11</sup> St. John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

And the devil, Satanic influence is very subtle – organized and extremely powerful. But God’s Love is more powerful than all of those put together. Realize that.

God’s Love is the greatest thing. Don’t be afraid of anything. Get in His Love. Close your eyes at the Christ Center and feel His Presence, and feel His Great Drawing Power. No force in the universe, man or otherwise, or of nature, can disturb you. I remember Master told me that, and it wasn’t many months from that when I was needing that advice – out in a storm, of which I have told you. I remembered his words, and I looked there [at the Spiritual Eye], and I felt I needed God, really, then. And God’s Power answered. And so, never mind these outward forces of man, or nature, or the evil force. God’s Power is Supreme. The power of love is greater than all those forces put together.

So, we get, we understand that as we read 1<sup>st</sup> John, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Verse: “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God...” Love is of God. Not ordinary emotions, but that which wells up within the devotee’s heart when they meet one another in God’s Love. That’s God’s Love. It’s quite different from ordinary emotion. And so: “Beloved, let us love one another: for God is Love; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth (*sic*) God.<sup>12</sup>” So, if you feel God’s Love, you know Him – He is with you – you have nothing to fear. Then it goes on: “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love.<sup>13</sup>” That’s the key to prayer, isn’t it? First feel God’s Love, then pray.

And so finally, as all law is founded on the Law of Love, so prayer, prayer that wells up, naturally, from the Love of God overflowing in the devotee’s heart, is the effective prayer. And, if you will just feel that Love of God, feel that, through your meditations and through your devotions to Him, and through the channel which He has sent, our beloved Master and the Great Ones, feel God’s Love; if you do that, if you feel His Great Love, you will not even hafta ask Him for anything. He answers even the devotee’s slightest wish.

And those who have followed the Master and love God, they will testify to this. You won’t have to ask Him even. He will answer your slightest wish, because God knows all things, and God loves us more than we love Him. As Master said, “God is crying for us.” Are we crying for Him? Yes, some of us are. We all

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<sup>12</sup> I John 4:7, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God.”

<sup>13</sup> I John 4:8, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

want to. Delusion and karma prevents us. But that can be overcome by the Law of Love, because God is Supreme.

Remember, Divine Mother's, the Divine Mother Aspect of God. When the father, who is so just, wouldn't respond, you went to the mother, and through the love which you felt in your heart, you knew she couldn't refuse you. So it is with God. Go to Him with the same attitude. Call Him "Divine Mother," if you want. It makes no difference. There's only one God, and He has all of the Aspects that you need. Go to Him in the Aspect of Divine Mother, and, as Master says, "She cannot refuse us."

And so that's the Law of Prayer. First, get into God's Presence. Know you're in His Presence by hearing the Cosmic Sound, seeing the Great Light at the Christ Center, and feeling God's Love in His Presence – *feel* His Love. If you feel like asking Him, go ahead. But you don't have to, because you know, He knows all your needs and will answer according to His Will.