

## **Beck's Baptist Church – A Church With HEART**

### **Four Secrets to Answered Prayer**

by Rick Warren

"Then [Nehemiah] said, 'O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unending love with those who love him and obey his commands, listen to my prayer! . . . I confess that we have sinned against you . . . Please remember what you told your servant Moses: If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored . . . Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me'" (Nehemiah 1:5-11 NLT). Here are four secrets to answered prayer from the life of Nehemiah:

**Base your request on God's character**--Pray like you know God will answer you: "I'm expecting You to answer this prayer because of Who You are. You are a faithful God. You are a great God. You are a loving God. You are a wonderful God. You can handle this problem, God!"

**Confess the sins of which you're aware**--After Nehemiah based his prayer on who God is, he confessed his sins. He says, "We've sinned." He says "I confess . . . myself . . . my father's house . . . we have acted wickedly . . . we have not obeyed." It wasn't Nehemiah's fault that Israel went into captivity. He wasn't even born when it happened and he was most likely born in captivity. Yet, he's including himself in the national sins. He says, "I've been a part of the problem."

**Claim the promises of God**--Nehemiah prays to the Lord, saying, "I want You to remember what You told your servant Moses." Can you imagine saying "remember" to God? Nehemiah reminds God of a promise He made to the nation of Israel. In effect, he prays, "God, you warned through Moses that if we were unfaithful, we would lose the land of Israel. But you also promised that if we repent, You'd give it back to us."

Does God have to be reminded? No. Does He forget what He's promised? No. Then why do we do this? Because it helps us remember

what God has promised.

**Be very specific in what you ask for**--If you want specific answers to prayer, then make specific requests. If your prayers consist of general requests, how will you know if they're answered?

Nehemiah is not hesitant to pray for success. He's very bold in his praying. Have you ever prayed, "Lord, make me successful?" If you haven't, why haven't you? What is the alternative? A failure?

Is it OK to ask God to make you successful? It all depends on your definition of success! I believe a good definition of success is-- "Fulfilling God's purpose for my life in faith, love, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and expecting the results from God." That is a worthy life objective that you should be able to pray for with confidence.

Consider this--If you can't ask God to make you a success at what you're doing, you should be doing something else. God doesn't want you to waste your life.

***Pray for our President and for every elected office.***

***Pray for the all the different activities of our children and youth.***

***Pray for our music search committee as they let God lead them.***

***Pray for our students, college, high school, middle school, elementary school as they have their summer break.***

***Pray for those that are sick and for any request unspoken.***

***Pray for our soldiers around the world.***

***Pray for our church staff.***

***Pray for those who are lost, and our outreach to them.***

***Pray for our missionaries.***

***Pray for all those in the hospital, home, Hospice and nursing homes***

Prayerfully,

*Elaine Poindexter*

Director

Watchman Prayer Ministry

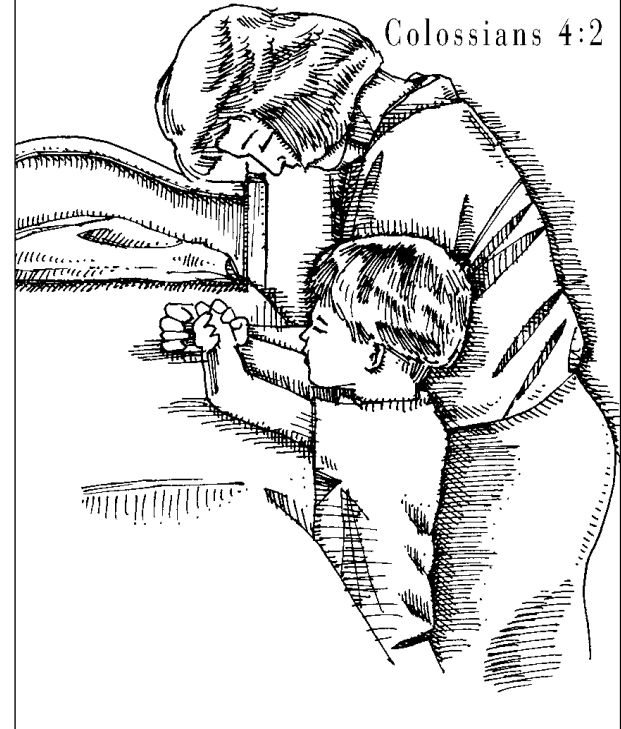
With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee...  
Isaiah 54:8



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Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2



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