

Elbert Spriggs

April 23, 1991

Island Pond

Indifference

Don't ever pray for anything except your own indifference. It is the only thing we should pray for -- if we are indifferent. Unless we pray for something with all our heart because we desire it with all of our heart, wanting it to come about with all of our heart, He doesn't hear us. Then He can only hear a prayer for our indifference. This affects our prayer life -- it keeps us from being religious and doing a useless thing. This will eliminate a lot of useless prayers.

He hears us if we pray with all of our heart.

"And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

"And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from him." (I John 5:14-15)

If we know He hears us He will give it. We still pray religiously. All our life we've prayed, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." He will not hear it and His name will not be hallowed except by prayer from all of our heart. The same holds for the prophecy of Malachi:

"And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel!"

"For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts.

"But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock, and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the Lord of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations." (Malachi 1:5,11,14)

It doesn't matter if we use the name of the Son of our Father or not unless He is our Master, Sovereign and king. We confess that He is our Master. Confess means to know. Prayer exposes our condition just like worship does when we come together. So does what we do when we're alone, when no one is watching. Most people are man-pleasers. It turned out that most of Israel did their good deeds to be seen by men. So from now on no one should ever pray except for his own indifference.

I John 5:14-15 is written before he talks of sin unto death. When was the last time we prayed for something with all of our heart because we desired it with all of our heart? This is exactly how we are to love our Master. Our will is that mysterious organ to be

utilized to turn our whole body over to our Master so we can do what He wants through us. We can't use our will to do anything except that His will be done. Grace only comes by our will, what our will is. What is your will? Our Master prayed, "Not my will be done, but yours."

Grace is the strength He provides to do His will. Our own strength produces works of the flesh. Our will is not for the purpose of drumming something up that we can do in ourselves but that we would turn our wills over to him. Not everyone will do it but everyone can do it. Everyone is able to turn their wills over to Him to do His will, but some will not do it.