



FAITH MAIL

March 2024

Don't Give Up
Praying!

Brothers and Sisters,

If you've been praying for individuals for a long time, such as young people who were once a part of the church but have since drifted away, family members, friends, neighbours, or colleagues at work, and you haven't seen any change, it can be discouraging. You may be wondering if you should stop praying for them altogether. However, it's important to remember that your prayers haven't been lost or gone unnoticed by heaven.

The Bible tells us that "[Yahweh] is far from the wicked, but he [always] hears the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29, NIV). So, we should never be in doubt that our Father hears us when we pray.

The story of Cornelius, a professional soldier and devout believer in Yahweh, teaches us about the power and timing of prayer. He regularly prayed and supported the poor. Although he didn't see any immediate evidence that his petitions were being heard, he persisted in his prayers. His pleas found their way to Yahweh as an offering. We know this because an angel visited him, saying, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as **a memorial offering** before [Yahweh]" (Acts 10:1-4, NIV).

A memorial is a 'token or sign of remembrance'. This reminds me of when the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. They cried out to Yahweh for help, and He heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with their forefathers (Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-10; 6:2-5). Whenever Yahweh remembers, He acts on behalf of those He remembers (Exodus 6:6-8).

Instead of giving up on praying, continue steadfastly because your petitions are not wasted. They ascend to Yahweh and are collected on the altar of prayer, like an intensifying aroma. It can take time for the fragrance of our accumulated prayers to become a memorial offering - triggering a response from Yahweh. The Israelites waited many decades, and we don't know how long Cornelius was waiting. However, you'll find that when your accumulated prayers intensify to become a memorial offering, our Father will respond. The 'token of remembrance' is Yahweh's time to act.

"No breath of true prayer is lost. The longer it waits, the larger it becomes."

A B Simpson

Alcot