



## LET'S TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE

I was talking to the teenagers this past week about the parents of Samson and how they talked with the Angel of the LORD and asked God for the messenger to come back. Judges 13:9 reads (in the NASB), "God listened to the voice of Manoah". It is interesting how we can so easily take that little phrase for granted. We can ask the question, "Does God really hear our prayers?" And the genuine truth is, YES! God really does hear our prayers, but too often that passionate "yes" is exchanged for a habitual and routinely said, "Yeah".

When David prayed he was amazed that God would listen to his prayers. Psalm 5:1-2 reads (and this should be read with passion), "Give ear to my words, oh LORD, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray."

He says in Psalm 28:1-2, "To You, Oh LORD, I call; My Rock, do not be deaf to me, I will become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands towards Your holy sanctuary."

David, the man after God's own heart, pleaded for God to hear his prayers. He loved the very idea that God would listen to him, care for him, and love him enough to open His ear to his pleas. When was the last time we left habits behind us and celebrated the idea that our Savior's ear is open to us? He wants us to talk to Him. He loves when we desire to talk to Him. He wants to listen to our voice!

Too many times we treat prayer like taking out the garbage (which no one really wants to do), but what if every time we took out the garbage we thanked God that we even have garbage to take out; to celebrate that God has provided for your family.

Prayer is not a routine. Anytime you get to talk to the Savior of the world it should never be a routine. Enjoy the listening ear of God. Enjoy taking out the garbage.

Pastor Andy