**15433, Elizabeth Thomas**

Good Evening (or afternoon) Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Jeremiah 29:13 God’s word tells us, “You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart”. Prayer is a consistent subject all through the Bible. It’s how we talk to God. But, in this verse of scripture God is teaching us that if we want to truly find God we must do more than just repeat a memorized prayer or give God a casual mention. We must “seek God with all our hearts.” There are repeated examples of people throughout scripture who did just that and saw miraculous things happen for themselves and for the people of Israel.

Exodus 32:9-14 the Bible says that when Moses went up the mountain to get the Tablets of the Ten Commandments the people of Israel built the golden calf and worshipped it. When God saw it he told Moses that He would destroy Israel for their swift disobedience. But the Bible says that Moses besought the Lord for them. He reminded God of his promise to Abraham and of the things the Egyptians would say about God if he killed his own people. After this the Bible says God changed his mind.

In 1 Samuel 7:5-11 the Israelites had just turned away from false gods and were afraid of the Philistines. Samuel gathered all of Israel together to pray, fast and repent of their sins. Samuel “cried unto the Lord” for Israel's deliverance and the prayer was answered. We must pray in faith. We must pray with repentance for sin. We must pray with humility and respect for God. We must pray with forgiveness for others.

In I Chronicles 22:19 the Bible says “Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Your mind and heart must be in agreement with what you speak. It can’t be just lip service. This kind of prayer takes all of you if you will see God answer your prayers and bring about miracles of salvation and deliverance as he did in scripture.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus wanted to select the 12 apostles, “he spent the whole night in prayer to God.” In [Luke 6:12](https://www.jw.org/en/publications/bible/nwt/books/luke/6/#v42006012). Even Jesus, the son of God, poured his whole self into prayer that he might receive God’s word and his will.

In Matthew 28:20 the Bible says that the last thing Jesus said to his disciples before he ascended to Heaven was, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”. That means that he is sitting beside God the Father always, listening for our prayers. He seeks a relationship with us. He wants us to talk to him, and he wants us to pour our entire selves into our prayers, just as he did while on earth and just as everyone throughout the Bible did, so that we will come to know a truly powerful relationship with him.

God wants relationship with us. He wants to answer our prayers. He wants to heal us, deliver us and show his power in our lives and in the world today. But, in order for that to happen we must pray with our whole heart and mind in agreement just as those we read about in the Bible.

Thank you