

The certainty of answered prayer revealed in one verse

John 15:7 (Jesus) **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it will be done for you.** (let's look at this promise in depth:)

If This word "if" means that all that follows it, I will either choose to do or not do. Some will, most won't. God's answers to my prayers depend on this choice.

You To what part of me, my spirit, my soul or my body, is God referring? The part of me that chooses and decides, of course. That is my will, which is my soul.

Abide Abide means live. We all live in that part of us that we submit our will to. It's either our human nature, our flesh, and primarily our brain, or, it's our new nature, our re-born spirit or heart, where Christ by His word and Spirit lives.

In Me We are to live continually in Christ. Christ lives by His words and by His Spirit in our hearts. When we yield to His Spirit and believe His Spirit guides our own spirit, we are living in Christ (Matt 18:3, Rom 8:1, 9, 16, 2 Cor 3:15-17, Eph 2:18, Heb 10:19). This could be the most important truth after we're born again.

And (if) But there is more. Not only must we live "in Christ", but the "if" covers this too:

My words Not just any words, but those words or promises God speaks to us, makes known to us, by His Spirit; revealing His will. These words are spirit and alive.

Abide Abide means the words continue to be alive, for we heard them, we believed them and we haven't killed them off by acting or speaking contrary to them.

In you Where in us? Not just in our head, where we may first hear them, for they can't be alive there. But in our heart, where they impart Christ's nature and faith, change us, and enable us to act, speak and pray in line with them. Then:

You will ask God in prayer. Since Satan rules the world (1 John 5:19) God needs our prayers, when we are in Christ, in order to accomplish His will in peoples lives.

What you will We know God's will, by His words and Spirit, and our will is in submission to His will. So we only pray His will. The only prayers He hears (1 John 5:14).

And it will be done for you. To deny a God led prayer would be for God to deny Himself. And God didn't say it will be done just "to you" but done "for you" so prayers for others are included. Rees Howells prayed for others based on John 15:7.

But what about the will of the person we pray for? If God is guiding our prayer this is not a factor, for He knows whose will He can influence by our prayer, if we persistently believe.

For Christians: 1 Jo 5:16 **If anyone sees his brother believer committing a sin that does not lead to death** (permanent spiritual death), **he will pray and God will give him life, yes, God will grant life to all those whose sin is not one leading to death...** AMP

Unbelievers: Ps 2:8 **Ask of me and I will give you the heathen for your inheritance...**KJV

Can I live in Christ permanently? John 6:56 Jesus: **Whoever eats My flesh** (believes My words) **and drinks My blood** (obeys My Spirit) **lives** (continually) **in Me, and I in them.**