

Friday 21 May 2021

*Neh.1,6: "Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants."*

*Jam.5,16: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

The way Nehemiah frames his prayer shows that he does not presume on God, neither that God is willing nor that God is unwilling to attend to the prayers of his people. Instead, he asks God, declaring in this way his trust in God's goodness and in his faithfulness with regard to his promises. That it is truly God's grace and mercy that are the ground for his hopefulness and of his appeal – and not his own piety or perceived spiritual standing – becomes clear through the confession of sins (v.6) which he expresses before God.

There is no doubt that prayer is meant to be an effective means given to the people of God / the believer. Many of the biblical examples of faithful prayer are instructive as to the proper use of it.

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." – 1Th.5,16-18*