Date: 3/13/21 (Original on 4/11/15)

Title: Thermometer or Thermostat #2

Theme: When we are connected to God, He can answer our prayers.

Object: Thermometer and thermostat

Text: Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV - 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Jesus spoke these words about prayer.

When we pray we can ask God to do things to help us.

And the Bible says that if we ask anything according to God’s will, He hears us.

So when we pray, we can ask for the things that God promises us in the Bible and He will hear and answer our prayers.

Here’s a promise from the Bible:

Isaiah 41:10 NLT - 10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Do you know that the Bible of full of wonderful promises like this.

In this verse, God tells us that we don’t have to be afraid or disappointed.

God says He’s going to be with us! He’s on our side! He has wonderful plans for us!

He promises to strengthen us and help us and hold us up.

One of the nicest things about being a Christian is that, if we love Jesus, God will be on our side to help us.

God will always be there to hear you when you pray.

Well, I’ve brought two things in my bag this morning that illustrate how God answers prayer.

The first is called a thermometer.

[Explain digital thermometer with remote outdoor sensor]

This thermometer can tell you the temperature, but, if you don’t like the temperature, a thermometer can’t do anything about it.

The second thing in my bag is a thermostat.

[Explain thermostat and how it is connected to the furnace to keep your house warm]

The thermostat can measure the temperature, and, if it’s too cold or too hot, it can do something about it.

It can make the furnace come on to heat up your house.

A person who doesn’t believe in Jesus is like a thermometer.

When they’re afraid, or discouraged, or disappointed or sad, they know that they don’t feel right, but they don’t have any way of asking God to make them feel better.

A person who loves Jesus and believes in Him is like a thermostat.

When he is afraid or discouraged or disappointed or sad, he can do something about it.

He’s connected to the source of power, just like this thermostat is connected to the furnace.

And when he prays, God can keep His promise to be with him and help him.

Thermometer: no connection.

Thermostat: Connected to the source of power,

Which would you rather be?

How many want to trust in Jesus and be connected, so that God can answer our prayers when trouble comes?