

PRAYER STUDY #89

PRAYER

Why does God not answer all our prayers the way we think He ought to?
*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things,
which thou knowest not.*

Jeremiah 33:3

The Bible is full of answers to prayer. God answers in three ways: First, the answer is an immediate "Yes!" When Peter was walking to Jesus and began to sink, he called out to the Lord, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately took hold of Peter's hand. (Matthew 14:22-31) Secondly, the answer is sometimes "Wait!" An example of this is the raising of Lazarus from the dead in John 11:1-44. Finally, the answer may be "No!" When God answers with a "No!", He always accompanies the answer with peace (Philippines 4:6-7: *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus) and grace (2nd Corinthians 12:7-10: *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me, and he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

HINDRANCES TO ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. **Lack of faith:** *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6*
2. **Inharmonious relationship between husband and wife:** *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward-arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel, rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah*

obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. 1st Peter 3:1-7

3. **Unforgiving spirit:** *But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, "Raca! Shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, "You fool!" shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:22-24*
4. **Sin in the camp:** *Therefore, the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed. Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Joshua 7:12*
5. **Fasting:** *Then came the disciples to Jesus privately and said, "Why could not we cast him out?" And Jesus said unto them, "Because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, If you have the faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it shall move, and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit, this kind goeth not out except by prayer and fasting. Matthew 19-21*
6. **Personal Sin:** *Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshiper of God and doeth His will, him He heareth. John 9:31 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1st John 1:9*
7. **Indifference:** *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11:12 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me. Proverbs 1:28*
8. **Despising the law:** *He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination. Proverbs 28:9*
9. **Blood Guiltiness(cruelty, extortion, deceit, etc.):** *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. Isaiah 59:3*

10. **Iniquity** : *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.* Isaiah 59:2
11. **Stubbornness**: *Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear, so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the Lord of hosts.* Zechariah 7:3
12. **Instability** : *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.* James 1:6-7
13. **Selfishness or Self-indulgence and Lust**: *Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.* James 4:3
14. **God's timing**: *Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.* Genesis 18:14 *In the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."* 1st Samuel 1:20 *I choose the appointed time; it is I who judge uprightly.* Psalm 75:2 *For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.* Ecclesiastes 8:6
15. **Pride**: *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.* James 4:6 *These six things the Lord hates. Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look* Proverbs 6:16
16. **Not knowing God**: *I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.* Matthew 7:23
17. **Refusal to wait**: *But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.* Micah 7:7
18. **Neglect of the poor**: *Whosoever stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.*

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. II Chronicles 16:9

The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27

When God does not seem to answer my prayers, is it that God's silence is going to bring into my life a greater revelation of my Heavenly Father than I have ever known?