



t e l l   t h e   s t o r y

MAIN IDEA

## WHY SOME PRAYERS DON'T GET ANSWERED

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### KEY THOUGHTS

#### Why Some Prayers Don't Get Answered:

1. **Unbelief.**

Matt. 21:21-22 | And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." James 1:6-7 | But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one *who doubts is like a wave* of the sea that *is* driven and tossed by the wind. Let not that person suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

2. **We ask with wrong motives.**

James 4:3 | And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

3. **It is not the will of God.**

1 Jn. 5:14-15 | We can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask anything that is in line with His will. And if we know that He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for.

4. **It is not the right timing.**

Gal. 6:9 | 'And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ' 2 Cor. 6:2, 1Tim 6:15

5. **The Father has something for us to learn or experience.**

2 Cor. 12:8-9 | Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." *Remember - Don't ask God HOW you can get out of this, instead ask Him WHAT you can get out of this.*

6. **Unforgiveness.**

Matt. 5:24, 6:9-15, Mark 11:22-25 | “Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

7. **Strife in relationships.**

1 Peter 3:7 | You husbands must give honor to your wives....If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.

8. **Unconfessed sin.**

Psalms 66:18 | If I had not confessed the sin in my heart the Lord would not have listened.

9. **Sometimes God wants to see some passion.**

James 4:16, Zeph. 1:12 | At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.’

10. **The cup of perseverance isn't full.**

Gen. 18:29 (Luke 18:6-8 MSG) | Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?” Luke 11:8, Acts 12:5 (AMP), Eph 6:18, Col. 4:2, Rev. 5:8, 8:3

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Describe a time when God obviously answered your prayer.
2. Describe a time when he didn't answer it - or maybe said “no”.

3. Looking at the list above, what reasons stand out to you as roadblocks to your prayers getting answered?
4. Why might these things be roadblocks even when “Grace abounds”?
5. Go around the room and pray, confessing and repenting of any hinderances that might influencing answers to prayer.
6. Let’s commit this week to praying through that list, repenting and renouncing anything that God’s Holy Spirit convicts you of.