



My Unanswered Prayer



Prayer is such an amazing gift from God! The opportunity to speak with the Creator of the universe is one of the best things about being saved. But you probably picked up this paper because you are struggling with unanswered prayer.

God always answers your prayers, but the answer may be something you didn't expect. Consider the four ways God may answer your prayer.

- **Immediate solution.** Isn't it wonderful to whisper a prayer and it is answered almost immediately? Lost keys, peace or strength to handle a situation, praying for God to calm the baby in the middle of the night, and more. We like that!
- **Sometimes His answer is "No."** There are multiple reasons why the Lord may not give you the answer you want, but He is Sovereign. Your request may not be according to His will or His plan. God knows the future, and all the possibilities, so we need to trust Him. Also, remember that you gave your life to Him. His negative answer may have nothing to do with you, but everything to do with His Kingdom work.
- **His answer may be delayed.** God's timing is much different from ours. We must remember that He knows better and is much more patient than we are.
- **His answer to your prayer may not be what you expect.** Thankfully the Lord is more creative than we are, and He has unlimited resources. Sometimes our prayers are too small, and He has something much better in mind.

Whenever you feel as if God is not answering your prayers, remember what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking. Your persistence will be rewarded.

If your prayer is according to His will, then ask. It will be given to you. Such prayers fulfill the promises of God. If someone truly repents of their sin and chooses to follow Christ, He ALWAYS answers that prayer... because the Bible says anyone who calls on His name will be saved. Prayers that are according to His will are always granted.





Some prayers may not be according to His will. God is not a magic genie who has to do anything you say. He will not miraculously transform that dessert into something healthy once it leaves your tongue and enters your stomach. If we pray for the Lord to give us an opportunity to sin, that is not according to His will. The Bible describes many sins and ungodly things that are definitely not part of God's plan for your life. We should not expect Him to grant those requests.

We may become disappointed that God doesn't save everyone we know, but we cannot—and He will not—force someone to follow Him. We pray and pray and pray for God to heal a loved one. Sometimes we see God do something miraculously or through medicine. Sometimes we see good people suffer. Everyone dies (except for Elijah and Enoch in the Old Testament). Eventually our bodies will fail unless Christ returns in our lifetime. But we have that blessed hope that we will all receive complete healing when God gives us incorruptible bodies. Even then, your prayer has been answered.