

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## *Why Doesn't God Answer My Prayers?*

### ***The Question***

- This question, “Why doesn’t God answer my prayers?” is the question Christians and the non-Christians often ask
- They believe that lack of response has *everything* to do with God and “nothing” to do with them
- We have poor view of God *and* prayer
- Many believers and unbelievers view prayer as a means of getting God to give us stuff
- Prayer is more than getting stuff from God, it is the product of a personal relationship with God
- Prayer is one of the ways that our relationship with God is strengthened
- God delights in hearing and answering our prayers, but those that are asking this question must examine themselves to determine if, how they pray, what they are praying for, or their spiritual condition may be impacting their answers to prayer

### ***Reasons Why Prayers are Not Answered***

***Unconfessed sin: Isaiah 59:1-2 (KJV) 1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.***

- Sin offends our holy God and separates us from Him Because God is holy, he cannot ignore, excuse, or tolerate sin as though it didn't matter.
- Sin cuts people off from him, forming a wall to isolate God from the people he loves.
- Sin is a barrier that separates people from God
- The wicked are separated, alienated from God due to their sins.
- He dwells in perfect righteousness, and He loves, cares for, and has deep concern for every human being. He longs for everyone to know the fullness of love, joy, and peace.
- God turns His face away and *will not* answer their prayers.
- God wants them to live with him forever, but he cannot take them into his holy presence unless their sin is removed.

***Unforgiveness: Mark 11:25 (KJV) 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.***

- Unforgiveness hinders God answering our prayers
- Forgiving others is tough work, because we have to get past what people have done to us and feelings about it
- It does no good to pray, *until* you forgive
- Real prayer dismantles pride and vengeance, filling the holes with love
- Hard feelings, grudges or anger against a person is *sin*

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## *Why Doesn't God Answer My Prayers?*

- Let go of hurts, abandon grudges, and forgive others.
- Jesus makes it *real clear*; we can't be forgiven *until* we forgive others

**Unbelief: James 1:6-8 (KJV) 6 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. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

- When we believe in God's Word, we must stand on it
- If we have divided loyalty, we're not completely convinced that God's way is best
- We waver between faith in God or faith in our feelings
- A double-minded person is like the waves of the sea up and down
- We can't expect anything from God

**Wrong Motives: James 4:3 (KJV) 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

- Many prayers are not answered because we pray *amiss*, or we pray with the wrong motives
- The sole purpose of the prayer was to receive an "answer" that gratifies our selfish desires
- Our prayers were not to seek the face of God, but to seek the hand of God
- We're seeking God's blessings so that we can have *more* comfort, enjoyment, better food and clothes, cars, and be accepted and recognized more
- God recognizes when the motives of our prayers are all about what we can gain for ourselves
- There is nothing wrong with wanting a pleasurable life
- As a matter of fact, God gives us good gifts that he wants us to enjoy
- But when our motives are wrong they lead to wrong prayers that God will not answer

**The Sovereignty of God: Romans 9:15 (NLT2) 15 For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."**

- God is sovereign and He can answer a prayer any way He chooses
- God's mercy is not based on human will or human work, but God extends mercy because He is God
- Human effort does not cause God to favor us, God favors us because He chooses to do so
- While God is sovereign, we must trust that God knows what's best for us

**Not asking according to God's Will: 1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)**

**14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us,**

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## *Why Doesn't God Answer My Prayers?*

***whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.***

- When we pray, we must pray God's will, not our will
- When we communicate with God, we don't demand what we want
- God's Word is His will
- When we align our prayers to His will, God will listen; and we can be certain that if he listens, He will give us the answers we need

***No perseverance in prayer: Galatians 6:9 (KJV) 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***

- Many people pray a couple times and if there is no answer, they quit
- Sometimes we must persevere and labor in prayer until God answers
- Many people quit not realizing how close they were to God answering their prayer
- It's not that God is keeping the answer from you, He is strengthening your faith
- And if we pray and not give up, we shall reap in *due season*, at the most opportune or perfect time

### ***Answers that Will Help***

- Ask your unchurched friends, "Have you confessed your sin to God, allowing Him to remove it?" Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?
- Pray with the right motives, our prayers should not be to gratify our selfish desires, but to glorify God
- Forgive those who've hurt you, don't hold a grudge
- Recognize and accept the sovereignty of God
- Persevere and labor in prayer
- Pray with the right motives
- Pray and believe the prayers you're praying will be answered without doubting