

Short Answer Series #25

Why aren't my prayers being answered?

There is no doubt that a sincere Christians prayers are answered. But, if they don't appear to be, we need to find out why not?

1 John 5:14. Tells us, 'If we ask anything according to His Will He hears us.' We do need to be sure that what we're asking is not only according to His Will, (His Word, the Bible), but also according to His Personal Will for our lives. He will bless us perfectly, in the place He has called us to live, or Minister.

1 John 3:22. 'And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.' We do need to make sure that our lives are pleasing to Him, and that we haven't strayed into areas that are doubtful. Matthew 6:5-6. 'And when you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly.' Our reward for anything either comes from God or men. If we do anything before men to be seen by them, the measure of recognition we get from them is our reward. If we do it before God alone, He will reward us, in this case answer our prayers.

Matthew 6:7. 'But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.' You can spend all night praying for something, and if you don't believe it will happen, it won't. But if you pray one sentence, believing that 'What God has promised, He is also able to perform,' it will happen.

James 1:6-8. 'But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.' We must settle in our hearts, that the Lord will answer our prayer before we begin. Ecclesiastes 3:1. 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.' The Lord will not do the right thing at the wrong time. If the timing is not right, or preparation is not complete, He (and we,) will wait.

Christians generally aren't guilty of any of the above. We do need to consider that our prayer may have been answered in a way we did not expect. The Lord is Sovereign, He will answer how He wants to, which may not necessarily be what we want.

We do need to ask the right question. If we ask Him to choose between A and B, when neither is His Will, we won't get an answer. We do need to allow Him to have a way out, if our question is the wrong one.

1 Peter 1:7. '... the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes.' As young Christians, the Lord answers our prayers quickly, because to us, 'seeing is believing.' But, as we mature Spiritually, He will answer today's prayers next week or later, because faith is the 'evidence' of things not seen, and He does want us to trust Him, and have some maturity. He doesn't appreciate having to treat a 20 year-old Christian like a 6 month old Christian. Will our faith stand this test of time?

James 4:3. 'You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.' I do hope Christians aren't guilty of this.

Unfortunately, Christians are told by some Ministries, that if they give a donation, it is a 'faith seed,' that will germinate into their healing, or whatever else they are in need of. There are plenty of con-men outside Church walls, who will promise you anything, if they can strip you of your money in return, but, when they invade the Church that is a shame. The Lord Jesus would overturn their Pulpits, call them a pack of thieves, and chase them out of the Church, giving them a well-deserved whipping as they depart.

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