

## The Unanswered Prayer

Prayer is communication with the Father. Prayer should never be a form, a duty or a dread. Communication with the Father is based upon the depth of one's relationship to the Father. Most people have little or no relationship with the Father. A man or woman who has a superficial personal relationship with the Father has (a very) dull non-profitable prayer life. When a person has not taken time or effort to discipline himself to pray, they wonder where God is? He is where He has always been and will remain. We are the ones who need to draw near to Him. Keep this in mind, that when we are lacking in a relationship, it can cause our prayers to be "unanswered". Here are some of the reasons prayer could remain unanswered.....What are your motives? Is your prayer sincere? Do you intercede on the behalf of others? Do you have faith in what you are praying for? Are you trying to be seen? (Meaning: When you in prayer, be yourself! Don't try to impress the Father with a style that is not you. Communicate with Him as a son or a daughter talks with their daddy.) Here are some scriptures (principles) that follow up on the previous questions.

**Matthew 6:5-8** NLT - (5) "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. (6) But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. (7) "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. (8) Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

**James 4:1-10** NLT – (1) What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? (2) You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. (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. (4) You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. (5) What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? (6) But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." (7) So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. (9) Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

Here are some more scriptures that speak on the cause of prayer failure: **Disobedience** – **Deuteronomy 1:45; 1 Samuel 14:37; 28:6**, **Secret sins** – **Psalms 66:18**, **Indifference** – **Proverbs 1:28**, **Neglect of mercy** – **Proverbs 21:13**, **Despising the laws of God** – **Proverbs 28:9**, **Iniquity (sin)** – **Isaiah 59:2; Matthew 3:4**, **Stubbornness** – **Zechariah 7:13**; **Instability** – **James 1:6-7**.

God is always approachable when it comes to prayer and He is willing to hear and answer prayer. However, understand this, "it is not about us!" God is sovereign and who knows better about what we need compared to what we may want? We must develop that relationship with God. The bible says in **Matthew 6:33** NLT – (33) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Always pray in the name of Jesus and thank God for His answer to your prayer.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:18 & 1 Thessalonians 5:17

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God answers prayer with yes, no or wait.

