

Why Do I Have Unanswered Prayers?

Family and Life Group Discussion Guide: June 23, 2024

Reasons why our prayers may not be answered as we expect:

1. We don't _____. (Matt. 7:7-11; James 4:2)
2. When we ask, we don't ask for what is _____. (Matt. 7:7-11)
3. When we ask, we ask with _____. (James 4:3; Luke 9:28-36; 54-55)
4. We have _____ sins and/or an _____ heart. We have not _____ ourselves and so God does not exalt us (he does not answer us). (1 John 1:5-9; James 4:6-10; Psalm 34:12-14)
5. We have not made the effort to _____ with others. (Matt. 5:23-24; Rom. 12:18; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 John 4:20; 3:19-21)
6. We are not _____ in our prayers (Luke 18:1-8).
7. We have _____ – we are not praying in _____. (Matthew 21:22; James 1:5-8)

Questions we may ask ourselves:

- Is this request going to bring glory to God?
- Will it contribute to my purpose in sharing Jesus and his kingdom?
- Does this request come from a place of love for God and for the people around me?
- Will this help me grow spiritually?

What actions should we take?

1. Pray – talk to God – he wants to hear from you.
2. Ask for what you know is good according to the word of God
3. Ask with unselfish motives – for God's glory
4. Reflect, confess, repent – be humble
5. Seek peace with others
6. Don't stop praying
7. Continually re-affirm your faith (in community, in your alone times, all the time)

For discussion:

1. Who did you pray with in the past week?
2. Go through the notes from Sunday's sermon above. Read through the Scriptures. Elaborate further on how each of these prayer hindrances affect our prayers and what we can and should do about it.

3. What do you struggle with most regarding this discussion? What specific things might you do to improve your prayers?



Life in Christ

PRAYERS