



## Part 3: Unanswered | March 26 & 27, 2011

**Main Point: For the true child of God, there's really no such thing as unanswered prayer. Even when God *seems* silent, your prayer *is* being answered.**

When we pray, God responds in one of four ways:

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not yet
4. Grow

Could you imagine how your life would change if you embraced the reality that God is answering your prayers the very moment you pray them?

- The moment you pray for a loved one who is sick, God begins to answer.
- The moment you pray over your finances, God begins to answer.
- The moment you pray about your job, your marriage, your children, your grief, a person who needs to know the Lord...
- The moment you pray those prayers, God begins to answer in ways that are positive, beneficial, and in the best interest of us and the people we are praying for.

**Matthew 7:7-11. James 1:6-7.**

You have to believe. But, of course, there are some biblical reasons why God doesn't answer every prayer in the manner you request. When God says "no," here are some questions to ask yourself:

### **#1 Is there unconfessed sin in my life?**

A belligerent child who deliberately disobeys his father's words should not expect to have his wishes granted.

**1 John 3:21-22. Psalm 66:18. 1 Peter 3:7.**

We don't have to be sinless for God to answer our prayers, but sin can stand in the way and be a barrier to communication with our Lord. If you're cherishing iniquity in your heart, if you're walking in sin instead of walking in the Spirit, if you don't confess your sins and repent, don't expect God to answer your prayers.

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### **#2 Is this a rash, foolish, or selfish request?**

We sometimes make rash, foolish requests without weighing out the long term effects. If you pray, and God says "no":

- God might be protecting you.
- God might have something better for you.
- God might be saying "Are you kidding me?"

**James 4:3. Proverbs 30:8b-9a.**

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**#3 Does my request harmonize with God's will?**

**1 John 5:14-15. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Mark 14:36.**

When you're in a fog, with a broken heart, and God's will doesn't harmonize with your will, just surrender. His plan is so much better than yours. And if you want to know God's will, you have to know God. That's why we study His word and pray.

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**#4 Am I being patient and persistent?**

Too often we pray like we're ordering lunch from a fast-food drive through. We hurl our requests at God and expect to pull around to the first window, pick up our order, and drive away. But sometimes God tells us to wait. Sometimes the answer is "not yet."

**2 Peter 3:8-9a. Luke 18:1b.**

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**#5 Is God trying to grow me, teach me, or lead me into a deeper relationship with Him?**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9a. 2 Corinthians 12 :10.**

Many of the problems we face are like Paul's thorn in the flesh. We pray, we plead, we beg, we bargain with God to take the thorn away, but He says "No, it's time for you to grow, and grow closer to Me!"

We learn more about God in the valleys of life than we do on the hilltops.

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**#6 Will I trust God's divine sovereignty more than my human understanding of eternal reality?**

We all have an inferior understanding of eternity. We don't have it all figured out. Our thoughts and God's thoughts are in two different galaxies.

**Isaiah 55:9.**

Occasionally, we'll get a glimpse of how God's grand master plan is working. But more often than not, we don't have a clue and we just have to trust Him, even when we are in agony and our prayers seem unanswered. We have a sacred calling to endure whatever we're dealing with, for whatever reason God deems. Father knows best! So, will you trust Him?

**Romans 8:28.**

If you're a child of God, there's no such thing as an unanswered prayer. The moment you begin praying, your Father begins answering. This truth can change your life forever.

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