



Part 3: Unanswered
March 26 & 27, 2011; Mike Kocolowski

Generate

Have you ever prayed for something and felt as if God didn't answer? Reflect on that time or discuss it with your group. What made you feel that God didn't answer? Did you come to find later that God did indeed answer your prayer...it just didn't seem like it at the time?

Core

1. **Read Daniel 10:12-13.** In these verses, the prophet Daniel is seeking the Lord, and after a 3-week fast, an angel comes to him. What do these verses tell you about prayer? What are some of the reasons that there is often a time-gap between your request and the fulfillment of your prayer? Why do you think an attitude of humility is so important when we talk with the Lord?
2. **Read Matthew 7:7-11.** Have you ever prayed fervently asking God for what you thought was a "fish," only to find out later that you were praying for a "snake," a snake that God never gave you? What did that tell you about your heavenly Father? How will this help you to be more patient in waiting for God to answer your prayers? In what ways does knowing God better help to improve our prayer lives?
3. **Read 1 John 3:21-22.** In what ways do our hearts condemn us? How is answered prayer connected to obedience? How have you seen this to be true in your life? Why would the Bible say that we will receive *anything we ask* of God if we obey Him?
4. Think about the last time God answered your prayer by saying "no." Why do you think He answered this way? Are there things you need to change in your prayer life that would result in God saying "yes" more often?
5. Why do we have a hard time when God says "not yet" to our requests? For insight on one possible answer to this question, read **2 Peter 3:8-9a**.
6. The Bible urges us to not give up in our prayers. (**Luke 18:1b**). Why do you think it is important to keep asking God for an answer to a particular prayer? What might God be trying to teach you by delaying an answer to your prayers?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9a.** What is your "thorn in the flesh?" Name some ways in which your "thorn" has turned out to be a blessing in your life? Why do you think God allows "thorns" in our flesh?

Challenge

Think about ways that you could pray more in line with God's will this week. Ask Him to show you His will, then pray fervently for the things God reveals to you. Trust that at the moment you pray, God is beginning to answer.