

The Prayer Priority

“What Do I Do When God Doesn't Answer?” Practical Steps to Understand How God Answers Prayer

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“What prayer have you been praying that you think God is not answering?”

God always answers prayer!

- If our request is wrong God says, **“NO”**
- If the timing is wrong God says, **“Not Yet”**
- If we are wrong God says, **“Grow”**
- If everything is right God says, **“GO”**

7 Reasons Why My Prayers Are Ineffective

1. I don't pray.

“You do not have, because you do not ask.” James 4:2

2. I pray with selfish motives.

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:3

3. I pray with known sin in my life.

“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear.” Is 59:2

“If I had cherished sin in my heart you would not have answered.” Ps. 66:18

4. I pray while ignoring God's Word.

“Since you ignored all of my advice and would not accept my rebuke... Then they will call to me and I will not answer.” Prov. 1:24-28

“Anyone who turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.” Prov. 28:9

5. I pray with a stingy heart toward the needy.

“If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.” Proverbs 21:13

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Cor. 9:6

6. I pray knowing there is a problem with a relationship I have with someone.

“Husbands...be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” 1 Peter 3:7

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” Mt. 5:23-24

7. I pray with doubt in my heart.

“When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, for the (one who doubts) should not think he will receive anything from the Lord”. James 1:5-7

What can I do to make sure my prayer is effective?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Ps. 139:23-24

I realize the hindrance that most effects my prayer life is _____.
Today I decide to remove that problem from my life so I can pray effectively.

What is your plan to get this particular hindrance out of your life?