



Prayer 5

Why do prayers go unanswered?

When we don't see answers to our prayers, it may undermine:

- Our trust in God's goodness
- Our belief in God's power
- Our confidence in the efficacy of prayer

Prayer and our faith:

Mk.11:22-24

What is the relationship between faith and prayer?

What does it mean to "have faith"?

Mt.17:14-21

Why did the disciples fail to drive out the demon?

How much faith did the disciples need in order to "move the mountain"?

Jam.1:5-7

What does God promise here?

Are there conditions?

Prayer and our walk with God:

What gives us confidence in our prayers?

1Jn.3:21-24

What robs us of that confidence?

Ps.66:16-20; Is.1:15-16

Jam.4:1-3

What were these Christians praying for?

Why were their prayers not answered?

Prayer and God's mercy:

1Ki.19:4 – Why was Elijah's prayer not answered?

Mt.7:9-11 – What if the son had asked for a stone or a snake?

Prayer and God's timing:

Ex.2:23-25 – Was the Israelites' prayer answered? When? Why the delay? (see Gen.15:13-16)

Ps.79:1,5-8 – Was the prayer of those in Exile answered? When? Why the delay? (see Jer.25:11-12)

**God's timing
is perfect**

**“When the time
had fully come
God sent his
Son.”**

[Galatians 4:4]

Prayer and God's will:

Mt.26:36-46

What did Jesus pray the first time?

How was his second prayer different?

What did Jesus learn through praying?

2Cor.12:7-10

Why was Paul's request not granted?

Why did Paul pray only three times?

What did Paul learn through praying?

“I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for anything, but it came: at some time, no matter how distant the day, somehow, in some shape, probably the last I should have devised - it came.”

[Adoniram Judson]

Prayer and God's purposes for us:

Rom.8:28-30

What is God's purpose for Christians?

How does an understanding of God's character and purposes help us come to terms with unanswered prayer?