

GETTING ANSWERS TO MY PRAYERS

Sermon Series: Seek—Pray—Turn

Sermon Outline

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Kelly Stanley

Five Attitudes That Help To Get God To Answer Your Prayers

1. I must be willing to let God answer _____.

† Luke 1:11-18, "While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹²Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³But the angel said, 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. ¹⁶And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. ¹⁷He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.' ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, 'How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years'" (NLT).

- The word translated as "heard" in verse 13 is the Greek New Testament word [εἰσηκούσθη, eisekousthen]. The tense of the word "heard" literally means it's had already been _____. It happened a long time ago.
- One of the marks of maturity in the Christian life is this: How long can you _____?

† Habakkuk 1:2, "O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear?" (ESV).

- God is more interested in growing your _____ than in giving you more _____.

When It Comes to Prayer, You Keeping Praying Until 1 of 3 Things Happen:

- a. You get the _____.
- b. You get the _____ that you are going get an answer.
 - † Mark 11:24, Jesus says, "I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours" (NLT).)
- c. You keep praying until God reveals to you that it is _____.

2. I must be willing to let God answer _____. This means, not only _____ He thinks best, but _____ He thinks best.

† Isaiah 55:8, "'My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,' says the Lord. 'And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine'" (NLT).

- Our problem is twofold: we ask too _____ and we want it too _____.

† Ephesians 3:20, "Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you" (TPT).

3. I must be willing to let God answer _____.

- God often waits until the situation is humanly _____ before He answers.

† Luke 1:18, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years" (NLT).

† Genesis 18:10, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!" (NLT).

† Romans 4:20, "Abraham staggered not" (KJV).

4. Be willing to let God answer for _____.

† John 11:3-7, "So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling Him, 'Lord, Your dear friend is very sick.' ⁴But when Jesus heard about it He said, 'Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.' ⁵So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶He stayed where He was for the next two days. ⁷Finally, He said to His disciples, 'Let's go back to Judea'" (NLT).

- † John 11:14b-15, 17, Jesus said, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him" . . . ¹⁷When Jesus arrived at Bethany, He was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days" (NLT).

Not Allowing God To Get The Glory Will Cause In Us:

- a. _____.
- b. _____.
- c. _____.

- † John 11:21-26, "Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give You whatever you ask.' ²³Jesus told her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴'Yes,'" Martha said, 'he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. ²⁶Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" (NLT).
- † John 11:32, "Mary said to Jesus, 'Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would not have died'" (NLT).
- † John 11:34-44, "'Where have you put him?' Jesus asked them. They told Him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Then Jesus wept. ³⁶The people who were standing nearby said, 'See how much He loved him!' ³⁷But some said, 'This man healed a blind man. Couldn't He have kept Lazarus from dying?' ³⁸Jesus was still angry as He arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹'Roll the stone aside,' Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, 'Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible' ⁴⁰Jesus responded, 'Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?' ⁴¹So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, thank You for hearing Me. ⁴²You always hear Me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe You sent Me.' ⁴³Then Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave-clothes, his face wrapped in a head-cloth. Jesus told them, 'Unwrap him and let him go!'" (NLT).

5. Be willing to accept that God has a _____ than my _____.

- † Mark 5:22b-23, "When Jairus saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, ²³pleading fervently with Him. 'My little daughter is dying,' he said. 'Please come and lay Your hands on her; heal her so she can live'" (NLT).
- † Mark 5:30, "Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from Him, so He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my robe?'" (NLT).
- † Mark 5:35-36, "While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, 'Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now.' ³⁶ But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, 'Don't be afraid. Just have faith'" (NLT).

Two Important Points To Remember From the Story of Jairus:

- a. While you are waiting for God to answer your prayer, keep your eyes open to see _____ of God's power in other people's lives.
- b. God delays in answering our prayers at times to _____.
- c. Read the story of Joseph in the Old Testament in Genesis 37-50. God had to get Joseph to be a prisoner in Egypt before he could become Prime Minister over Egypt.
- † Romans 1:7, 10, 15, "I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be His own holy people . . . ¹⁰One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you . . . ¹⁵So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News" (NLT).
- † Romans 15:20, 24, "My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else . . . ²⁴I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey" (NLT).
- † Acts 28:16, "When we arrived in Rome, Paul was permitted to have his own private lodging, though he was guarded by a soldier" (NLT).
- † Philippians 1:13, "My imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become common knowledge throughout the whole praetorian (imperial) guard and to everyone else" (AMP).
- Paul used his imprisonment as a _____ and an opportunity to _____ to the churches.
 - When you pray and the request is not right, God says, "_____." When you pray and you're not right, God says, "_____." When you pray and the timing is not right, God says, "_____." When everything's in place, God says, "_____."