



DIVING DEEPER

LIVING WHAT WE LEARN

"How Does God Answer Prayer?"

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges we have as believers, but it is also one of the greatest mysteries.

1. GOD ALWAYS HEARS THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN

James 5:16 "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Have you seen prayer accomplish something before in your life?

Do you believe prayer moves the heart of God?

Do you believe prayer changes circumstances?

Do you believe prayer changes people?

Have you ever been changed by prayer?

Psalms 34:15 "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry."

2. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER IN FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS

1. Yes
2. Wait
3. No
4. "I have something better"

Waiting is not punishment. Waiting is preparation. God is often doing more in us than for us.



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Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary.

They will walk and not faint.

What characteristics have been produced in you during periods of 'waiting' on the Lord to answer your prayers?

Have you had your faith strengthened during the wait?

Have you become more dependent on Christ during periods of wait?

How have you handled your situation when God say's "no" to your prayer?

Have you ever mistaken God's delay for God's absence?

3. ARE THERE PRAYERS GOD DOES NOT HEAR?

The Bible teaches that there are certain prayers God refuses to honor. Not because He isn't loving... But because He is holy.

God Does Not:

-Honor Unrepentant Sin

-God Does Not Answer Selfish Prayers

-God Does Not Ignore Unforgiveness



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-God Does Not Bless Hypocritical Religion

-God Does Not Promise to Hear Those Who Reject Christ

Are you surprised by anything in that list?

Do you have unrepentant sin in your life?

Isaiah 59:1-2, Psalms 66:18, John 9:31

Do you pray selfish prayers? James 4:3

Do you have unforgiveness in your heart? Mark 11:25

Do you or have you ever prayed publicly only to impress others? Matthew 6:5

Have you rejected Christ? John 14:6, Romans 10:13

How Should We Pray?

1 John 5:14

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

NLT: 14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

WE SHOULD PRAY

-ACCORDING TO HIS WILL

-IN FAITH

-SPECIFICALLY

-WITH SURRENDER



What does it mean to you to “come in faith” to pray effectively?

Hebrews 11:6 6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Do you believe God hears you?

Do you go to prayer with a clean heart?

Do you repent quickly?

Do you forgive others?

Do you pray according to Scripture?

Do you pray persistently?

Do you pray generally or specifically?

Do you trust God more than you trust your own understanding?

Never judge God's love by the speed of His answer. Judge His love by the cross.

Are you ready to hear God’s Answers For Your Prayers?

What was the biggest take away from today’s lesson?