

# WHAT TO DO ABOUT UNANSWERED PRAYER

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## I. WHY UNANSWERED PRAYER IS SO CONFUSING

**Because some of the boldest promises the Lord ever made to me are about answering my prayers**

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:22-24 (NIV)

(See also: Matthew 21:21-22 and John 14:13-14)

If you live in me and what I say lives in you, then ask for anything you want, and it will be yours.

John 15:7 (GWT)

## II. HOW I CAN COPE WITH UNANSWERED PRAYER

### 1. Remove anything that is hindering my prayers

- **Unconfronted sin**

If I had ignored my sins, the Lord would not have listened to me.

Psalm 66:18 (TEV)

God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we’ve done wrong.

1 John 1:9 (GWT)

- **Mistreatment of others**

Husbands, take good care of your wives. They are weaker than you. So treat them with respect. Honor them as those who will share with you the gracious gift of life. Then nothing will stand in the way of your prayers.

1 Peter 3:7 (NIRV)

- **Overly selfish prayers**

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16 (NLT)

- **Lack of perseverance**

So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NLT)

## 2. Remember some important things about God

- **The most important thing to remember about God is that He always has my best interest at heart**

Can a mother forget the infant at her breast, walk away from the baby she bore? But even if mothers forget, I'd never forget you—never.

Isaiah 49:15 (TMSG)

- **Some other important things to remember**

- 1) **God always has a clearer perspective than I do**

He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from him to whom we must explain all that we have done.

Hebrews 4:13 (TLB)

- 2) **God always has a higher purpose than I do (See 1 Corinthians 4:7-10,16-18)**

I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.

Psalms 57:2 (NLT)

- 3) **God always has a better plan than I do**

And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.

Romans 8:28 (TLB)

**If the request is wrong, God says, "No"**

**If the timing is wrong, God says, "Slow".**

**If I am wrong, God says, "Grow".**

**If the request is right, the timing is right, and I am right, God says, "Go"!**

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But Joseph told them, "Don't be afraid! I have no right to change what God has decided. You tried to harm me, but God made it turn out for the best, so that he could save all these people, as he is now doing.

Genesis 50:19-20 (CEV)