



Questions We Ask

What about unanswered prayer?

"Three times I prayed to the Lord about this, and asked him to take it away. His answer was, "My grace is all you need; for my power is strongest when you are weak."

2 Corinthians 12:8

Prayer is a great privilege. We get to talk with God. And yet, prayer is not without its problems. There are times where we do not know how to pray and there are times when we question whether our prayers have been heard. Honestly, have you ever prayed only to feel that your prayer has gone no further than the ceiling?

Have you ever wondered, "Is God listening?" Have you wondered, "Does God care? Does God really answer prayer?"

Our experience of God's silence is often intensified during times of great need but most of us, at one time or another, struggle with the reality and prospect of unanswered prayers

The Psalmist wrestled with the problem of unanswered prayer. He writes: "How long will You forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way?" (Ps. 13:1) Apparently, the Psalmist felt that God was not hearing his petitions and not answering them.

On the other hand, he speaks of answered prayer. For example, the Psalmist writes in Psalm 116, "I love the Lord

because he hears and answers my prayers.”

God does answer our prayers, probably very similarly to how we answer our children: yes, no and not yet.

Getting a “yes” is wonderful. We can all celebrate the “yes” in our lives.

The “No’s” are much tougher to take and even harder to hear. What’s good about “no,” is that we have the promise of His grace to deal with the situation. (2 [Corinthians 12:9](#))

It’s the promise of His presence in loneliness, His strength when we’re weak, and His peace when anxiety gets the best of us. His grace fills the gap.

Remember, even Jesus had unanswered prayers.



J.I. Packer says in his book “Praying,” “Ultimately, there is no such thing as unanswered prayer.... God, being a good Father, tries to give us what we would have asked for if we knew everything he knew.”

In the end, its easy to give simple answers concerning “unanswered prayer.” May each of us choose to trust regardless of the answer.

“During the day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer; I call at night, but get no rest.”

Psalm 22:2

Are you still waiting for an answer to prayer?

How have God’s “No’s” turned out to be His “Yes?”

Read Luke 18:1-8. What lesson does the persistent widow teach us about unanswered prayer? And what does it tell us to do?

Know that the ears of God are trained upon you. “Go to God with your burdens! Trust that God hears your prayers! And, in ways you don’t fully understand, God will see you through this situation you face.”

