

Why Doesn't God Seem To Answer Our Prayers?

Mark 11:22-26

INTRODUCTION:

Mark 11:22-26

Jesus replied to them, "Have faith in God. I assure you: If anyone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown 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, all the things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them, and you will have them.** And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing. [But if you don't forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your wrongdoing.]"

I. One of the reasons may be that I have misunderstood what an answered prayer is or what it looks like.

II. Maybe I have been asking with wrong motives.

James 4: 1-8

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. ² You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

⁴ You adulterous people, [a] don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us[b]? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

III. Maybe we didn't like Gods answer.

CONCLUSION

Quote by David A. Bednar.

Prayer is a privilege and the soul's sincere desire. We can move beyond routine and 'checklist' prayers and engage in meaningful prayer as we appropriately ask in faith and act, as we patiently persevere through the trial of our faith, and as we humbly acknowledge and accept 'not my will, but Thine, be done.'

I close with these questions and just one thought of mine:

Question #1 So is God not answering our prayers or are we not listening to the answer God is giving us?

Question #2. Is the answer God gave us not the answer we wanted?

A Thought to Consider:

Something I want you to think about as we close today. If we are asking God to move in us and answer our prayers then we better be willing to except the answer he gives us and move for him.

CLOSE IN PRAYER