



Diagnosing Unanswered Prayer

Unanswered prayer has less to do with a _____ of faith and more with _____ faith.

1. _____ Issue

The very names of God throughout the Bible declare His will:

- Jehovah-Shalom The Lord our _____
- Jehovah-Jireh The Lord our _____
- Jehovah-Rapha The Lord our _____
- Jehovah-Tsidkenu The Lord our righteousness
- Jehovah-Sabaoth The Lord of Hosts
- Jehovah-Shammah The Lord is Present
- Jehovah-Rohi The Lord our _____
- El-Shaddai The Lord Who is Sufficient for the Needs of His People

Faith begins where the will of God is known. The will is God is known through His Word. His Word is based on His covenant. His covenant is based on His character. His character is that of a loving Father.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. I John 5:14-15

2. _____ Issue

Doubt

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. ²³I assure you that you can say to this mountain, ‘May God lift you up and throw you into the sea,’ and your command will be obeyed. All that’s required is that you really believe and do not doubt in your heart. ²⁴Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it. Mark 11:22-24



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Sin

*if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. 2 Chron. 7:14-15

Wrong Motives

*You do not have, because you do not ask God.*³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:2-3

Unforgiveness

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” Mark 11:25

Stinginess

If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered. Prov. 21:13

Idolatry (Anything that is more important than God.)

Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!

⁷“*When any Israelite or any alien living in Israel separates himself from me and sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet to inquire of me, I the LORD will answer him myself.*⁸*I will set my face against that man and make him an example and a byword.*

Ezek. 14:6-8

Lack of Persistence

“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.

¹⁰*For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.* Luke 11:9-10

Lack of Patience

follow the example of those who are going to inherit God’s promises because of their faith and patience. Heb. 6:11

3. _____ Issue

*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.*¹⁵*And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.*¹⁶*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.* James 5:14-16

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