

September 18, 2019
“Why Does God not Answer My Prayers?”
Various passages
David Self

“Therefore I tell you, all the things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them, and you will have them.” (Mark 11:24)

1. Reasons why we may feel our prayers are unanswered

- A. Prayerlessness** (James 4:2) You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask.
- B. Protection** (Mark 10:37) They answered Him, "Allow us to sit at Your right and at Your left in Your glory."
- C. Priorities** (James 4:3; Matthew 6:33) You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your evil desires.

Mat 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

2. Means to increase our Focus and Belief in Prayer

- A. Agreement with believers** (Matt. 18:19) Again, I assure you: If two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.
- B. Agreement with His will** (John 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23) **Joh 14:13-14** Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.
Joh 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.
Joh 16:23 In that day you will not ask Me anything. "I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.
- C. Agreement with His plan for our lives.** (I John 3:22) and can receive whatever we ask from Him because we keep His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight.

D. Prayer is not trying to conform God to our will; rather, it is about finding His will and agreeing with it. We can only pray and “believe” when we know that we agree with Him. (Col. 1:9-14; Rom 12:1-2; I John 5:14-15)

Col 1:9-14 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, (10) so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *to Him*, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. (11) May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy (12) giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. (13) He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. (14) We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him.

Rom 12:1-2 Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

1Jn 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence we have before Him: Whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.

You can follow David on Twitter @DavidJSelf or visit our website if you miss a lesson or for more information at: <http://houstonfirst.org> and search Highpoint. You may also sign up for our weekly email list @ <http://eepurl.com/gFg9X>.

Upcoming High Point Speakers:

David Self – 9/25; 10/16, 10/23, 10/30; 11/6; 12/11

Skyler Womack - 10/2, 10/9; 12/4

Malcolm Marshall – 11/13

Tim Young – 11/20

Highpoint Holidays

11/27; 12/18, 12/25; 1/1