



Why Prayers Are Not Answered

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

James 1:5-8

Doubting God

Spiritual Remedy

Deciding to believe what God says and acting on it.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

*⁶ But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.*

⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

James 4:2

Not asking God in the first place but trying to obtain it by quarreling.

*² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **You do not have, because you do not ask.***

Spiritual Remedy

Ask God in prayer for your needs.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

1 Peter 3:7

Treating your wife
in an inconsiderate
manner.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Spiritual Remedy

Living with her in an understanding

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

1 Peter 3:12

Doing evil

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Spiritual Remedy

Be righteous.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

1 Peter 4:7

A flippant attitude
to holy things.

*⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore **be self-controlled and sober-minded** for the sake of your prayers.*

Spiritual Remedy

Being serious and watchful.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Matthew 6:5-6

Hypocritical
attention-
seeking.

Spiritual Remedy

Pray in private to
God not publicly for
show.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered **Matthew 6:7**

Using
vain repetition.

*7 “And when you pray, **do not heap up empty phrases** as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.*

Spiritual Remedy

Pray concisely knowing that God is hearing and knows your needs.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Matthew 18:19

Lack of unity
especially among
Christians.

¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

Spiritual Remedy

Agreement & fellowship.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Mark 9:29

Some situations need prayer and fasting as well.

*²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything **but prayer and fasting.**”*

Spiritual Remedy

Spiritual discernment and a disciplined life.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Mark 11:25-26

Unforgiveness

Spiritual Remedy

Forgive whoever has offended you from the heart.

²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

²⁶ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Luke 18:1-3

Lack of
persistence

Spiritual Remedy

Do not lose heart or give up.

¹ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.

*³ And there was **a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’***

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Luke 18:10-12

Spiritual pride

Spiritual Remedy

Humble yourself before God.

¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

*¹² **I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.***

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

Timothy 2:8

Wrath/ anger

*⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands **without anger or quarreling;***

Spiritual Remedy

Live peaceably in prayer.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

1 John 5:14

Asking not in
accordance to
God's will.

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

Spiritual Remedy

Ask within the bounds of Scripture.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

John 14:13-14

Not asking "in Jesus' name" i.e. asking in the will and clear purposes of Jesus and with His designated authority.

¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Spiritual Remedy

Ask God in Jesus' name with the understanding that all authority comes from God not you.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

John 15:7

An erratic life that seldom "abides" in God.

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Spiritual Remedy

Abide in Jesus words and let them abide in you.

Why Prayer Is Not Answered

John 16:26-27

Not believing in
Jesus.

Spiritual Remedy

The Father loves those who believe in his Son and will answer their prayers as a result.

26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;

*27 for the Father himself loves you, **because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.***