

Why Certain Times God does not Answer our Prayers And Why Certain Times God's Answer is Late

“1 O lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: 2 Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; 13 But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee. 14 LORD, why castest thou off my soul? why hidest thou thy face from me?” (Psalm 88: 1-2, 13 -14)

This Scripture from *Psalm 88* is the cry of a man to God. He is praying but his prayers are not answered. It seems that God has neglected him. Why does God tarry and certain time not answer our prayers? A number of possible reasons can be given; it may be it is not God's intended time. Or God may have to alter circumstances in order to meet your needs in the best way. Or God may have things He wants to work in your life and change before He answers, and there are many more reasons. God is always listening to His people but in some situations He will not respond because of uncertainties that only you can answer. The following are possible answers of why God certain times does not answer our prayers and why certain times His answer is late

1) Lack of prayer, or ‘Have you prayed?’ Many of us have serious problem regarding prayer time. All seem to pray but have no consistent or disciplined time in prayer. We can always find time to eat, time to work, time to have fun and sleep, but it seems so difficult to find time to pray. We certainly acknowledge the value and importance of prayer, yet time and again we neglect a quality time with God. We evade with excuses like, ‘I am too tired,’ or ‘I am so busy’ or ‘God knows my need already.’ Or, we ask someone to pray for us. Jesus said, *“23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” (John 16:23-24)* Many times you are sick and you run to have medicine and you don't remember to pray. You have problems, you run for solutions, you ask help from people but you forget to pray to God, *“2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” (James 4:2 KJV)*

2) You have asked in other names, or ‘Have you prayed in the name of Jesus?’ The power in prayer is only possible by coming to God in the name of Jesus. *“13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:13-14 KJV)* God will not answer prayers in the name of Mary or the rest of the saints; Peter, Paul, Andrew, etc., or the rest of the human names or the idols of this world. * As well as you must know that to pray in Jesus name is more than just attaching His name to the end of whatever we have prayed. * Using the name of Jesus effectively depends on our relationship to Him and our obedience to His Word. * Moreover, in making request, our hearts should be aligned with Christ's purpose and His will.

3) Your lack of faith in God, or ‘Have you prayed in faith?’ *“22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:22-23 KJV)* Faith in God that He will work in our behalf is

the byproduct of our relationship, confidence and trust in God, when we believe without doubt that the Lord would do as He has promised. *“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11: 24 KJV)* This also mean that you have the mind of Christ that you are aware that you are asking Him what is goes with His plan and purpose, and so you need to have the faith on Him that He will do it for His glory.

4) You have doubt, or ‘Have you asked God with a double mind?’ *“5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:5-8 KJV)* * When you pray and ask God to give you wisdom then trust God that He will give you wisdom to manage your life because that is the will of God in your life and to help you to take the right decision. After you prayed for such a request you should not doubt and you should not be double minded that God will not answer you; trusting God that He will help you to take the right step in your life. * Also certain times when you pray and God do something that He closed the way or block you from certain things then you need to trust God that God had answered your prayers. When God says to you ‘No’, then that is the answer for your prayer.

5) You have asked God your wants and the sinful desires of your flesh and not your needs, or ‘Have you prayed with a wrong motive?’ Sometimes when you pray, you ask God for so many things. You imagine that you are in the shopping mall desiring for every displayed item. * God shall not give you your wants but God shall give you your needs. * Sometimes you ask for something that you want to spend on certain aspects that cause you to sin; that you spend what God gives you on smoking, drinking, gambling, adultery, etc. * Or you ask God to give you the rights of other people or what is not due for you, and you want to use that for fighting with others. *“1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:1-3 KJV)* * The Lord rejects prayer that springs up from the sin of greed, lust and selfishness. God wants you to be conformed to the image of His Son. He will not grant you requests that will hurt you or frustrate and undermine His design for your life or other's lives. God will not grant you something to fulfill your desire of flesh or to entertain the work of the devil in your life.

Be careful also not to insist on God to give you something by force because later on you will pay the price heavily of your request. God will do that because that is the last thing remained to teach you not to ask wrong things or in wrong motive from God. That what had happened when the Israelites insisted on God to give them meat to eat in the wilderness, He gave them quail to eat but while the flesh in their mouths, those who lusted were plagued and put to death, *“33 And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. 34 And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.” (Numbers 11:33-34 KJV)* Those that had lusted after meat and despised the manna that God gave them therefore He sent them pestilence to punish them. He provided for them the manna. the healthy food, but they rejected it and so when God sent them

quail those who indulged in eating it with gluttony, God punished them because they knew the law of God already but still did not follow and did not have self-control. ***“14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.” (Psalm 106:14-15) * So when you know the Word of God and your need is met then you need to behave and do not ask God wrong things, otherwise if you insist and keep grumbling He may give you but He will also punish you.***

The other example is when the Israelites insisted on Samuel to give them a king to lead them as other nations, in which they rejected God and not Samuel as the Lord declared to him, ***“7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” (1 Samuel 8:7 KJV)*** Finally God gave them what they asked and ultimately the Israelites lost their battle in front of the Philistines in the mount of Gilboa, ***“11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.” (Hosea 13:11 KJV)***

6) Lack of reverence to God, or ‘Have you prayed with reverence to God?’ “7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.” (Matthew 6:7) Prayer is meant to be a two way communication with God. **** We must realize that during prayer, the Holy Spirit will often give us an inner witness, the sense of peace and faith as we pray in reverence and in awe of God. * God is the all knowing God who deserves to be worshiped and be adored not just by words but with a listening heart. * You must also discern what you need to pray and not just much words thinking that God will answer you because of your many words, therefore you need to fear God and revere Him so your prayers will not be hindered, “2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.” (Ecclesiastes 5: 2 KJV) So when you pray, you need to behave and you speak precisely and in reverence of what you need to ask God, and no need to speak much words and no need for repetition.***

7) You are boastful, or ‘Have you humbly prayed?’ Prayer is not boasting and showing off, but humbling before God. Some are praying not for God to hear, but for people to hear them. ***“5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.” (Matthew 6:5 KJV)*** The purpose of God for prayer is that you speak to God and you listen to Him when He speaks to you. Prayer is not to let people listen to you and not to impress people with your prayer. God shall reward you as you avoid boasting in such a way. ***“6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:6 KJV)*** The meaning here of this arrangement that when you pray you need to go to your room is not that compulsory to pray in your room and not in other places but that God should listen to your prayer and not the people.

8) You are boastful and self-righteous, or ‘Have you looked down on others considering yourselves better than others before God?’ “10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote

upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” (Luke 18:10-14 KJV) The tax collector who was a sinner went to the temple to pray and went home justified because he approached God with humbleness and repented heart. He was telling God that he was a sinner and was pleading with God to have mercy on him. But the Pharisee was boastful and self-righteous and brag before God about his good doings but did not see what he lacked of humility, his pride and boasting. He took God for granted and did not ask God to have mercy on him, and so went home with his sins not forgiven. ***In humbling ourselves before God we need to confess and ask forgiveness for our sins and mistakes. We need to plead with God to have mercy on us and forgive us our wrong doings and restore us back to Him.***

9) You have not forgiven others, or ‘Have you non forgiveness toward others?’ God shall forgive you and listen to your prayers when you repent as you forgive others. ***“14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15 KJV)*** Non forgiveness is a hindrance for our prayers to be answered. ***“25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25 KJV)*** Forgive others so God shall forgive you and answer your prayers.

10) You are keeping sin in your heart, or ‘Have you prayed with a pure heart?’ Deliberate and non repented sin will hinder and destroy our prayer life. ***“18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.” (Psalm 66:18–19 KJV)*** In ourselves, we are never worthy to come before God. But Jesus Christ has made this possible for us when He died on the cross for our sins. So we must live a life dedicated to please God and to do His will. ***We need always to search and examine ourselves and see if there is any sin that we need to confess and renounce so our prayers will not be hindered***

11) You are unjust with others, or ‘Have you prayed with clean hands?’ Injustice, abuse and taking advantage of others will hinder our prayers to God. It is not only that we need to show respect to God, but we ought also to respect one another. It is not only that we need to ask forgiveness from God, but we ought also to ask forgiveness from one another. ***“7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7 KJV)*** * Men should consider their wives and should not burden them and give them responsibilities more than their capabilities and faith for such will hinder their prayers. Men should consider their wives they are heir together with them of eternal life, that their salvation may be affected if they are overloaded. * So men needed to be considerate with their wives. * Husband, repent and ask forgiveness from your wife if you have done wrong thing to her. * Wife, repent and ask forgiveness from your husband if you have done wrong thing to him.

We need also to examine ourselves if we have done something wrong with others: ***“23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24 KJV)*** In the

same way if you remember that your brother had something against you then when you come to pray or to offer your service and gift in front of the altar of God, then keep your gift there, go and reconcile with him, and do all what you can to make peace with him. If he is willing to reconcile then well, but if he is not willing then you have done your part, then come and offer your prayer or service and gift to God and it will be accepted by God.

12) You are doing your own will and plan, or ‘Have you prayed according to God’s will and plan?’ “14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15 KJV) * When you pray according to your own will God will not listen and respond to your prayer. * Also certain times you don’t see what God is giving you because you are waiting to receive according to your own will and not His will. * Seeking the will of God in our prayers is not only pleasant to God, but we will receive the best and more than what we planned or imagined. “11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14 KJV)

The big question is, ‘How can you know that you are praying according to the will of God?’ First, God has revealed many specific instructions, commandments, and principles of His will in the Bible. Second, reading the Word of God in the Bible will show you the plan of God and the will of God in your life. Third, the more you are humble and the more you are seeking God and desiring to do His will, then the more God will be opening up to you and will speak to you about His will and He will direct you how you will do it and live your life for it. Fourth, God shall confirm to you His plan and His will through events and will speak to you through visions, dreams or through His Godly people to direct you fully unto it.

* The mode of God in answering our prayers is the way to teach us His ways; to correct us, to bring us to repentance, to discipline us, to train us, to teach us new things, to help us to overcome the power of darkness, and to build our capital of faith in Him. * All our prayers will be answered in God’s perfect time and will. God’s answer to our prayer is never late or too early. Instead, we ourselves are late to ask and to receive what He is giving us. “17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1: 17 KJV) Trust Him and continue to pray and He will reveal to you His will in full.

13) You are not serious in keeping your commitment to God, or ‘Have you prayed fervently and persistently?’ “5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.” (Luke 11:5-8 KJV) Here in this story that Jesus spoke the man rose

from his bed and opened the door at mid night and relief the man who came to him not because he was his friend but because he was persistent in his knocking on his door. * The important point for us is to remain faithful to God and be persistent in our prayers to Him. After we know God’s will then we need to persevere in doing it. God is watching us and wants us to knock only at His door and not to go to other’s door. * Certain times God is delaying to give us our needs in order to test us whether we will keep standing at His door or we go and knock other doors. Certain people I ask them why you did such a wrong thing. They say because we asked God and since He did not give we did that. They should wait and trust God and continue in prayers with faith until He answers. Through prayers God will teach us to build our faith and trust on Him rather than on material things in this world. Fervent prayer in the will of God requires that our prayers be definite and specific rather than vague and generalized petitions.

14) You are hindered by the devil and its demons, or ‘Have you casted out devil and demons out from your way by the blood and the name of Jesus?’ When Daniel humbled himself in prayer and fasting to seek God and to have understanding and to discipline himself, God answered his prayers from the first day but the answer was delayed to reach him by the angel Gabriel because the opposition of the prince of Persia, which represent either Satan, the prince and god of this world, or one of his principal demons under him, employed by him to do what mischief he could in the court of the king of Persia, against the people of God, the Jews: “11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. 12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” (Daniel 10:11-13 KJV) Gabriel was opposed by the power of darkness, by stirring the king of Persia against the Jews in using people and gifts to change the mind of the king against giving favor to the Jews, and so Michael came to help him and that is why Gabriel was detained 21 days and was delayed to reach Daniel. In the same way we need to behave as Daniel; when we know God’s will we need to continue to pray and fast so the power of the devil will be overcome by Jesus Christ our Lord the commander of the armies of God.

My dear and Beloved: “14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV) * The requirements of God for us in order to answer our prayers is that we need to humble ourselves, keeping our pride aside, and start to draw near to Him, and to seek His face and not His hand. * Seeking the hand of God it means you are after material things only from God. But seeking the face of God is that you want to see His face happy with you and seeking the face of God is that you are asking more details of His will and plan in your life. * Then with such progress you will be aware of your sins and mistakes and you will decide to turn from your wicked ways, and that is repentance and that will be the time that God shall hear your prayers, forgive your sin and will give healing to your life, to your body, to the relationships that you have to the people around you, and let His blessings to flow again in your life and you will have the joy and got revived and assured that your relationship with God and your fellowship with Him had been restored.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. LORD I thank you for all the teaching I received in this message.*

Repent and renounce of all your sins. Renounce your pride, arrogance, boasting, self-righteousness, fighting, envy, jealousy, lust, immoralities, drinking, and smoking. Repent and renounce your worldliness, your greed and your love for material things. Repent and renounce all your idols. Repent of the sin of injustice, abuse and taking advantage. Repent and renounce of your non forgiveness, anger, hatred, and nursing grudge in your heart against others. Repent of your lack of faith, doubts, and lack of trust in God. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word and lack of proper daily prayers. Repent and renounce your yoke with non believers, and with the Media, News and games. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I humble myself before you, coming back to you, seeking your face, doing your plan and will, and walking in your ways. Lord I commit myself to keep daily time for prayer. Lord help me and sustain me in this life, provide for me my daily needs so I will continue to serve you.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to live according to your will and plan. Lord protect them and guide them and provide all their needs. Devil we come against you and your demons in the name of Jesus and by His blood that was shed on the cross for our sins. Go away from our Brothers and Sisters and don't disturb them anymore.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people. Lord help us to continue to pray according to your will and as the Holy Spirit lead us. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to reach to all the congregations and the members of the church in various places and let it bear fruit that you desire to see in the life of your church and your people. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Why Certain Times God does not Answer our Prayers, and Why Certain Times God's Answer is Late. Psalm 88:1-2, 13-14. John 16:23-24. John 14:13-14. Mark 11:22-25. James 1:5-8. James 4:1-3. Numbers 11:33-34. Psalm 106:14-15. 1 Samuel 8:7. Hosea 13:11. Matthew 6:5-7, 14-15. Ecclesiastes 5:2. Luke 18:10-14. Mark 11:25. Psalm 66:18-19. 1 Peter 3:7. Matthew 5:23-24. 1 John 5:14-15. Jeremiah 29:11-14. James 1:17. Luke 11:5-8. Daniel 10:11-13. 2 Chronicles 7:14.

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