

Prayers Going Unanswered

26 Reasons Prayers are Not Answered

(1) Not Working the Process:

Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)

7Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- a. Asking.**
- b. Seeking.**
- c. Knocking.**

(2) Asking with the Wrong Motives.

James 4:2-10 (NKJV)

2You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

4Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously? 6But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.

7Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. 9Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. 10Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

(3) We don't have a Rhema Word (Therefore: we're not in Faith)

Romans 10:8-13 (NKJV)

8But what does it say? The word (Rhema) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word [Rhema] of faith which we preach): 9that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11For the Scripture says, *Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.* 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13For *whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (Rhema) of God.

(4) No Confession of the Promises (Rhema word), and what is Right.

Romans 10:5-7 (NKJV)

5For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, *The man who does those things shall live by them.* 6But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, *Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?* (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7or, *Who will descend into the abyss?* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Romans 10:8-10 (NKJV)

8But what does it say? The word (Rhema) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word [Rhema] of faith which we preach): 9that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Hebrews 3:1, 10:23; Mark 11:22-24; 2 Corinthians 4:13; 1 Timothy 6:12)

(5) Unconfessed / Cherished sin. (Psalms 66:18)

Psalms 66:18 (NKJV)

18If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Psalms 66:18 (NIV)

18If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

John 9:31 (NIV)

31We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

(6) Doubt / Double-Minded. (James 1:5-8)

James 1:5-8 (NKJV)

5If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8*he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

(7) Lacking Prayer and Fasting.

Matthew 17:15-21 (NKJV)

15Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him. 17Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me. 18And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

19Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, Why could we not cast it out? **20**So Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. **21**However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

(8) Not Asking According to His Will.

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15**And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

(9) Unforgiveness.

Mark 11:25-26 (NKJV)

25And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26**But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

(10) You're Ignoring Poor People.

Proverbs 21:13 (NKJV)

13Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard.

(11) Not listening to Wisdom.

Proverbs 1:24-28 (AMP)

24Because I have called and you have refused [to answer], have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it,

25And you treated as nothing all my counsel and would accept none of my reproof,

26I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when the thing comes that shall cause you terror *and* panic -

27When your panic comes as a storm *and* desolation and your calamity comes on as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

28Then will they call upon me [Wisdom] but I will not answer; they will seek me early *and* diligently but they will not find me.

(12) Not Honoring your Wife.

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

(13) Unbelief.

Matthew 17:18-20 (NKJV)

18And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. **19**Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, Why could we not cast it out? **20**So Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (Hebrews 3:19 - below)

(14) Disobedience.

Hebrews 3:16-19 (NKJV)

16For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? **17**Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? **18**And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? **19**So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:6 (NKJV)

6Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,

(15) He's got something better planned for us. (Proverbs 19:21)

Proverbs 19:21 (NKJV)

21There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel that will stand.

Psalms 33:10-12 (NKJV)

10The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

11The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

12Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

16) Not adding Works to our Faith.

James 2:17 (NKJV)

17Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Galatians 5:6 (AMP)

6For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated *and* energized *and* expressed *and* working through love.

17) Not living in Faith & Love as we ought.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NKJV)

14For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15**from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, **16**that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might (Dunamis) through His Spirit in the inner man, **17**that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18**may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height **19**to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power (Dunamis) that works in us, **21**to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

18) Not Guarding our heart.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (AMP)

23Keep *and* guard your heart with all vigilance *and* above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

45A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (AMP)

24Put away from you false *and* dishonest speech, and willful *and* contrary talk put far from you.

25Let your eyes look right on [with fixed purpose], and let your gaze be straight before you.

26Consider well the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established *and* ordered aright.

27Turn not aside to the right hand or to the left; remove your foot from evil.

19) Not Confessing our Sins to each other.

James 5:16 (NIV)

16Therefore 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.

20) Praying religiously or traditionally but not engaged with our spirit, soul, and body.

James 5:16 (NIV)

16Therefore 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.

21) Giving up and not persevering.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NIV)

35So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. **36**You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)

23Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

9And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

22) Not discerning the body of Christ correctly. (Not handling other believers and those in the church correctly - having division (v. 18), not giving preference to others, lack of Love)

1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (NKJV)

17Now in giving these instructions I do not praise *you*, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. **18**For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 (NKJV)

27Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **28**But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29**For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1 Corinthians 11:30-34 (NKJV)

30For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. **31**For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. **32**But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. **33**Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **34**But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

23) Being too Casual about how we live and the Devil / Demonic.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (AMP)

8Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant *and* cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon *and* devour.

9Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (AMP)

26When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down.

27Leave no [such] room *or* foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NKJV)

10Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, **11**lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

24) Not being prepared for what we're facing. We're in the fire before we have a fire suit on.

- We haven't developed the ability to hear him and be led by him.
- We don't understand faith. (Our faith doesn't work for us)
- We don't know what it means to Fight the Fight of Faith.
- We haven't learned patience, perseverance, and the ability to stand up under something. Having done all to stand - stand.
- We're not living in our purpose / destiny
- We haven't conquered Fear.
- We're still living in disobedience and willful sin.
- We haven't grown beyond the believer / child stage.
- Etc., Etc.

25) Not understanding Binding and Loosing & our Identity in Christ.

Matthew 16:18-19 (NKJV)

18And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19**And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:19 (AMP)

19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven. [Isa 22:22.]

Matthew 18:18 (AMP)

18Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid *and* declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit *and* declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.

To be able to agree with Heaven and Bind / Loose - we need to understand:

- Who we are in Heaven.
- Who we are on Earth.
- What is Heaven Declaring. (What is already Bound / Loosed in Heaven)
- Our Rights and Authority in Christ / Covenant.
- Our Identity in the Kingdom of God.

26) We are not saying amen to the promises. Either because we don't know how, or we're choosing to stay in unbelief.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (AMP)

20For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ]. For this reason we also utter the Amen (so be it) to God through Him [in His Person and by His agency] to the glory of God.