



*Why Isn't God Answering My Prayers?*

*Adam Bowers | 7/17/2022*

*Mark 11:23-24, Luke 11:9-10, John 16:23-24, John 21:25, James 4:2-3, 1 John 5:14-15, Matthew 7:7-11*

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1. Have you ever had a big prayer request granted? What was it? How did you respond?
2. Many of us have had prayers go unanswered. Think back to a time when God didn't answer a prayer the way you wanted - what was it? How did you respond?
3. What do your responses to your answered and unanswered prayers teach you about how you view God?

*Prayer is request. The essence of request, as distinct from compulsion, is that it may or may not be granted. And if an infinitely wise Being listens to the requests of finite and foolish creatures, of course He will sometimes grant and sometimes refuse them.*

**C.S. Lewis**

4. Adam mentioned three possible reasons for God to not grant a prayer request:
  - a. The request was made with selfish motives
  - b. The request is outside of God's will
  - c. The request is not a truly good gift

Do you find one of these reasons more comforting or easier to accept than the others?

5. Adam asked the panel about times in their lives when God rejected their requests and they later saw that it was a loving thing for Him to do. Has that ever happened to you?
6. How can we best encourage those around us when they struggle with unanswered prayers?