

DOES GOD ANSWER



YOUR PRAYERS?

Does God Always Answer Your Prayers?

Yes, God does always answer your prayers. However, how and when God answers is up to God. The answer can be yes, no, or wait.

When God Says "Yes"

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."
(Matthew 7: 7-8)*

Of course, we all want a "yes" answer, and when we get it, we are satisfied. But that's not always the answer we get.

When God Says "Wait"

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."
(Isaiah 55: 8)*

When the answer is "wait", it can be difficult. You may wonder if God heard your prayer or if He really cares. But just because God seems silent doesn't mean He's forgotten you. He's still at work. Rest assured, God does hear your prayers, He loves you, and He is working to provide what is best for you. So during a "Wait" period, ask God what it is that He wants to teach you ... and don't be surprised if the lesson is about something unrelated to the issue you are praying about ... and it may be some time before you see how God answered you.

When God Says "No"

*"Jesus advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by Him; He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you, Take this cup away from Me, but not what I will but what You will."
(Mark 14: 35-36)*

When God answers a prayer with a "no", remember it's a "love no". He answers "no" when the request isn't the best thing for you.

God can say "no" to what you ask in prayer when what you ask is not in your best interest or in accord with His divine plan. And sometimes, the "no" is "not now". Be patient! Let God answer your prayers His way, and trust in the knowledge that however He chooses to answer is for the best.

God sees all and knows all. We must keep our faith in God's love for us, even when we cannot see what's before us. As you step out in faith, paths you never knew existed will open before you.

Read 2 Corinthians 4: 7-18

**God wants you to know Him better.
A Cornerstone Weekend is one way you can
help answer God's prayer for you.**

**WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE
Corpus Christi Parish**

For more information, contact:
201-288-4844

Expect God To Help You!

God always answers your prayers, but He doesn't always answer in a way you expect or according to your time frame.

When you feel overwhelmed, thank God for the gifts of faith, mercy, forgiveness, and patience that help you get through these tough times.

Go to God in confidence not because of who you are, but because He is the King of kings.

Look upon prayer as a means by which to obtain things you need, to get to know God better, and to help you understand what God has planned for you.

Who's in Control? As if you need to ask! Don't forget you are first and foremost a child of God and He loves you. He knows you better than your close friends, family members, or even your spouse. God is your partner in all things - whether traveling, parenting, working, or relaxing.

Start With Prayer. Ask God to grant you wisdom and inspiration, to open your eyes to a greater vision of your life and Him. Pray that God reveal to you the dreams He has written for you on your heart.

Set Some Time Aside. Make time to be alone in a quiet place. Often nature can help us "think big" as we see the grandeur of God's creation. Even a quiet corner in a local library can provide an atmosphere for reflection. Or attend a short weekend retreat where you can pray and reflect on how God is working in your life.

Pen Your Dream. Write down your thoughts and dreams - even the wild and crazy ones. Ask yourself: What is my dream? What activities give me a sense of being fully alive? What gifts do I enjoy using? Your answers will help you detect and shape your dreams.

Silence the Skeptic. Be aware of skeptical, discouraging thoughts or feelings of inadequacy or uncertainty. Identify your reservations, and their sources - are they from God? from you? from others? Don't let obstacles keep you from God's plan. Don't define your limitations, instead let God decide what you can and cannot do. God loves to work through weaknesses and seeming impossibilities. So dream big even about things that cannot happen with only your strength and ingenuity, but only with the power and grace of God. As you entrust your dreams to God, He'll reveal to you more than you can hope or imagine.

Watch For Signs. Look for ways God may be offering you, which give you direction and guidance as you pursue your dreams. Some call them coincidences, some say they're God-incidences. Whatever you call them, God finds ways to "speak" to you; and don't worry about missing a sign, He will send you others. Just be open to how He may be working in your life. You'll be amazed how God makes connections and honors the risks you take in response.

God has called us each by name; and has given each of us special gifts and talents, to accomplish the special purpose He has planned for each of us. This purpose probably isn't something that will change the world. Most of us will not be called to that, but rather to live honestly and faithfully. Watch for signs and respond in faith to fulfill His request. Simply pray, and He will answer.

What The Bible Says About Prayer

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. (*James 4: 8*)

Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5: 7)

You do not have because you do not ask. (*James 4: 2*)

When I cried out, You answered; You strengthened my spirit. (Psalm 138: 3)

Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11: 28*)

Call to me, and I will answer you; and I will tell to you things beyond reach of your knowledge. (Jeremiah 33: 3)

Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your heart's desire. (*Psalm 37: 4*)

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! plans to give you a future full of hope. (Jeremiah 29: 11)

When you call me, when you go to pray to Me, I will listen to you. When you look for Me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot... (*Jeremiah 29: 12-14*)

Jesus looked at them and said, 'For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible'. (Matthew 19: 26)