

Some Particulars & Problems Concerning Prayer

Scripture speaks often of prayer in a very pragmatic and practical way. In this session, I want to point out some of these and highlight reasons why prayers are not answered.

1. James 4:2b reads, *You have not* [Present linear action] *because you do not ask* INTENTLY [a Present Tense, Middle Voice infinitive].

POINT: God does not answer lackadaisical prayer.

POINT: Do you set aside time every day to pray?

2. James 4:3 reads, *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss* [off target] *that you may spend it on your pleasures*.

POINT: God does not answer prayers that violate His Word and/or are _____.

Sub-Point: Our requests give God the opportunity to highlight our motivation, good or _____. Prayer is educatory.

3. Sometimes, God's answers to our prayers are _____ as in the case of Daniel (Dan. 10:1-4) and Paul (Rom. 1:9-10; 15:30-32).
4. Domestic irresponsibility hinders a biblical-realistic prayer life, 1Pet. 3:1-7.
5. Sin harbored in a Christian's heart often means "No" to his/her prayers.

Compare Psa. 66:18 and Psa. 32:5; Isa. 1:15.

6. Sometimes it is best for God to say "No" to the felt need (as with Paul's thorn in the flesh, 2Cor. 12:8).
7. The most common problem – WE DO NOT PRAY; therefore, God does not answer. At issue: we simply do not believe God and His words about asking and receiving.

Heb. 11:6 is critical to an active prayer life.