

Prayer – First Response or Last Resort Series
Message # 2: Is God Ignoring Your Prayers? Find Out WHY He Might Be.
Core Group Discussion Guide
September 16, 2018

Message Overview:

Perhaps you have heard someone say ... “I tried prayer and it didn’t work. I had a need and prayed about it. But after I prayed about it – nothing happened and I didn’t see any results. I was disappointed in God and I don’t believe in prayer.”

- Does God promise to answer everyone’s prayers?
Do you feel God answers YOUR prayers? **Why** do you and **how** does He?
- It’s clear in Scripture that God completely ignores some people’s prayers.
- Some times God says – “**IF** you do this _____, **THEN** I will do that _____.”
How does God’s “**IF ... THEN ...**” conditions apply to prayer?
- Do you think God lays out any conditions for answered prayer? What?

Text:

John 15:7; Psalm 66:18; 1 John 3:21-22; Mark 11:24-25; Matthew 5:23;
1 Peter 3:7; Proverbs 21:13; James 1:5-7

Questions for Discussion:

- **OPEN IT –**
 1. When have you experienced frustrations or doubts in your prayer life?
 2. How do you feel when you have prayed about something meaningful to you, and it seems that God has not heard your prayers?
 3. How can God be both **sovereign** (the fact that God is free and able to do all that He wills over all people and events) and **yet seemingly bound** to grant every request (John 15:7) we lay before Him? (If you can answer this one – you might just be a theologian!)
- **EXPLORE IT –**
 1. Talk about the **FIVE CONDITIONS** for answered prayer (as noted in our sermon this morning). What do these conditions tell us we must do in order for God to respond to our prayers?
 2. How might the way a man treats his wife hinder his prayers? (1 Pet. 3:7) (I put this question up front. So don’t skip it. Enjoy the discussion.)
 3. On what do answers to prayer depend? (Mark 11:22-25)
 4. What promise did Jesus offer about receiving answers to prayer?
What is the condition that must be met? (Mark 11:24)
 5. How is some unanswered prayer accounted for? (Mark 11:25)
- **APPLY IT –**
 1. What is one specific request that you want to commit yourself to pray for regularly this week that you will submit to the five conditions of prayer?
 2. What can you as a husband or wife do to be a better spouse (1 Peter 3:7)?