Why Does it Seem Sometimes That the Lord Doesn't Answer Prayer

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

"What is the reason that God sometimes doesn't answer my prayers?" you ask. Dear one, I always answer your prayers. Sometimes My answer is "yes," sometimes it's "no," sometimes it's "wait," sometimes I will ask you to do something first, but I always answer. Sometimes I will give you counsel in a certain direction and ask you to follow that first, and then come back to Me for the next step--that's an answer. Sometimes I will tell you to have patience--that's an answer. I'm answering people's prayers all the time, but they just have a certain mindset about what kind of answer they want, so they think I'm not answering. (1)

Not one prayer will go unattended or unanswered. This is My promise to you, My loves, for to answer your prayers is My delight. How I love your prayers. I live to tend to each one, for this is My great pleasure, My delight, My life, My song. (2)

Many Times the Lord Answers your Prayers in a Way You Didn't Expect

Your prayers are answered according to My will and what I know is best for you and everyone concerned. Don't lose faith and think that there's something wrong with you or your prayers if it seems like I'm not doing what you asked Me to do. After you have prayed and committed something to Me, trust that I--your loving Father--will do what is best for you, even if it means not giving you something or not doing exactly what you asked Me to do, because I know there is a better way. (3)

The answer to your prayers has a lot to do with My will. In fact, it has everything to do with My will. If what you want Me to do is according to My will in every way, then you will recognize the answer easily, because it will be exactly what you prayed for. But other times, if My will is not exactly the same as what you have prayed for, you might not recognize the answer as quickly. I still answer, but some parts of the answer to your prayer, or even the entire answer, might be different than you expected. (4)

It is good to be specific in your prayers. But at the same time, when you pray for one specific answer in one specific way and consider that the only way I can answer, then you limit Me. You hinder My ability to give you a different answer in a different way that might have met your needs even better and have been exactly what you needed, even though you did not realize it. I do not hold this against you, though. I know that you're flesh and oftentimes do not see the full picture, but only what you consider the limitations that are in place.

For this reason, because I know your heart, I'm able to override these things and answer in unexpected ways. You still move My hand through your prayers, though not in the way you originally thought would be best, or not in a way you thought of at all. For My ways are higher than your ways. Your prayers were not pointless or useless. You will often later see the reasons for Me answering in a different way, but even if you don't, trust Me that I know what's best. I know all and see all, and only want what's best for you, My love. (5)

Consider a man in the woods who encounters a giant tree blocking his path. I could lift him over it, I could tunnel him under it, I could send fire to burn it, I could lift it, I could help him climb it, I could show him a way around it, or I could even help him to see why it's not My will for him to cross it in the first place. But all that the man prays for is a chainsaw--his ideal solution to the problem. He shouldn't be disappointed if I don't supply that saw, because maybe My answer to the situation is not at all what he was expecting. Don't be so stuck on a situation ending up exactly as you think it should that you miss the other options that I wanted to use to bring the ultimate answer to your prayer. (6)

When you pray, you have a certain mindset. You know what you want, when you want it, and most of all, how badly you need it. Your perspective on your prayer request is narrow in comparison to My view of it. You don't see the fine details; for the most part you miss all of them because your mind and heart are so focused in a specific direction.

You pray, "We need You to do a miracle, Lord. Please have Your way and answer!" I take what you ask and I give you the answer. But because your vision is directed in one way, you don't see that all along I was using your prayers to accomplish what I know is best. You're facing one direction, aiming all your prayers where you want or think they should be heading.

It's not that your prayers weren't answered; they were. You just didn't expect My answer because you weren't looking for it. You only had your eyes on one goal, a very tiny part of the whole picture. I work on a big scale, I don't like to be limited, and I know that you trust Me with the right outcome. So because you desire My will above all, I'm able to redirect your prayers like bullets ricocheting and finding the target I had in mind. The only difference between a bullet and prayer is that a bullet is not controlled; it ricochets and everyone drops, afraid of where it might end up. But when I redirect prayer, I know exactly where it's heading. I'm a God of precision, and nothing misses the mark when I aim. You were simply looking at the wrong target. (7)

Obstructions to Prayer

There are times when I do not answer as you would like. In the New Testament I said, “Ye ask and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.” This is an example of a time when I would not answer your prayers and give you what you were asking, because you were asking for the wrong thing. (8)

For example, if a child prays for a truckload of candy, because I know that this is not good for him, I won't answer that prayer with a truckload of candy. I will answer it by not sending the truck. (9)

If you would like your prayers to be answered, then do all you can to fulfill your part of the bargain. Ask Me what conditions you need to fulfill, if there is anything that is obstructing My answering as you would like, if there is anything that should be done on your part. Once you've asked this and done what I require, then come before Me again and ask Me if it's the right time for Me to answer these prayers, or if it is time for you to proceed as if possessing and count it done. (10)

Remember, faith and obedience must come first, and then I answer prayer. For example, if you beseech Me for supply but have not done all that I have asked you to, or are even doing things I have asked you not to do, then you cannot ask in full faith nor be fully assured of My answer. I may have mercy and supply anyway, but I am not bound to do so. (11)

Strive to keep up the practice of seeking Me for how to get rid of any obstructions to your prayers being answered, any areas of further yieldedness that are needed, and then trust and believe as you pray prayers of faith and praise--and I will answer! (12)

When “Bad Things” Happen Even Though You Prayed

I've told you that every prayer is heard and answered. This is true. Even though you don't always see the results of every answer right away, they are answered in My way and in My time. When you pray in My Name and claim My promises, you have My power at your disposal to work for you, to do miracles, open doors, whatever you're praying for. Even though you might not always see the immediate fruit of claiming My Word, it stands firm and is true.

It's the same when you pray in the power of the keys and claim the keys promises. They work for you in the spirit and answer your prayers. You don't always see the physical manifestation of the power of the keys on the spot, but their power is at work just the same. Sometimes I allow “bad” things to happen in spite of the fact that you prayed and claimed My promises, or prayed in the Name of Jesus, or claimed the power of the keys. It might seem like prayer or the keys don't really work and don't make a difference, especially in cases when you pray for protection or healing or something you feel you really need, and you don't seem to receive it.

The results are up to Me and My will at the time--how I know it is best to answer your prayer. Sometimes I allow negative circumstances to happen in order to accomplish My higher will. For example, I might allow you to have an accident, even though you claimed My protection and claimed the keys. That doesn't mean that prayer and the keys don't work; it just means I have a higher purpose for allowing those circumstances. Ask Me about it and I'll tell you why.

Ask Me to explain the reasons why I allow something “bad” to happen in your life. If you pray specifically for a good night's sleep and claim the keys--and then you don't sleep well--that doesn't automatically mean the keys aren't working for you. Ask Me about it, ask Me why I allowed that situation to happen, and I'll explain it to you. Maybe I want to speak to your heart in the quiet of the night, or guide your thoughts, or convict your heart about something. Sometimes I want you to pray about something. I'll show you the reason for everything I allow if you ask Me.

I choose not to guard you from every single thing in life, because if I did, then you wouldn't learn and grow in the spirit, and you wouldn't learn how to fight in the spirit and use your spiritual weapons. I have to allow some “bad” things to happen so that your faith will grow and your use of your spiritual weapons will be sharpened more quickly.

You are surrounded by the protection of the keys when you specifically claim them to protect you, but if something happens to you anyway, it just means that it could have been much worse if you hadn't prayed and specifically claimed the keys. Every promise of the power of the keys is fulfilled in some way when you claim them, but exactly how I choose to fulfill those promises is according to My wisdom and what I know is best at the time.

It might seem odd to you that I don't choose to protect you from every possible hurt or negative experience, especially when My promises indicate that I will, but remember that it's often the deep, dark experiences of life that teach you the most valuable lessons. If I were to protect and keep you from every negative thing, then you would be in Heaven and not on Earth.

The power of the keys is a spiritual weapon that I have made available to My children who live in the physical world. Without their power a lot more “bad” things would happen, but because you pray and specifically claim their power you have much greater protection and help from the spirit. When you pray, claim their full protection or their full anointing, full wisdom, whatever you need their help with, and then leave the final decision up to Me as to how to fulfill My promises. Don't limit your faith and don't belittle the power of the keys because of doubt or a lack of faith, but trust in My promises completely, even if you don't see the answers as you'd like them. (13)

Nothing happens by accident--especially to My children who are praying and seeking Me. There are times when I ask you to pray specifically for something, both because this is an exercise of your faith and because I delight to answer and reward that faith. It is good to be specific in your prayers. But at the same time, when you pray for one specific answer in one specific way and consider that the only way I can answer, then you limit Me. You hinder My ability to give you a different answer in a different way that might have met your needs even better and have been exactly what you needed, even though you did not realize it. I do not hold this against you, though. I know that you're flesh and oftentimes do not see the full picture, but only what you consider the limitations that are in place. For this reason, because I know your heart, I'm able to override these things and answer in unexpected ways.

But there are times when factors change, or when for any variety of reasons I must work things out differently. There are many factors that can affect the outcome of a certain course of action. There are people's individual and personal choices involved, and while My Spirit can move within people to use them for My purposes, they don't always heed that tugging of My Spirit, and so I must work around their decision to bring about My will in some different way.

Or sometimes it's a case where you simply didn't know what you were asking, or how a specific request was not entirely in line with My will. But your prayers don't limit Me from answering in the way I know is best, even if the answer doesn't come in the way or form that you expected.

So are those prayers wasted? Of course not. No prayer is ever wasted. -Every prayer is heard and answered in My time and in My way.

So why pray?--Because it shows Whose side you're on. It shows Who you're working for, Who your Master is. You are called to be My servants, tenants, and stewards of My Kingdom, and as such you must bring your requests before Me, to beseech Me to work on your behalf, to supply the needs for this part of the Kingdom, or strengthen My defensive forces in that part of the Kingdom. This is your task and responsibility.

My responsibility is to weigh those requests and answer them in the best way possible. I see the bigger picture and I know how to bring about your requests in a way that's best for all. But you must still ask to set the ball in motion, to get the gears moving, to get the answer coming.

If it doesn't always come in the form that you expect, that's because I know better, and because My ways are higher than your ways.

But most of the time I delight to give you just what you ask for and what you have faith for, and even to give you the desires of your heart that you did not have faith to specifically ask for, simply because of My great love for you. (14)

Free Choice and Your Prayers for Others

Many times prayers for a change in people's lives are the ones that take longer. When you pray for supply or things of this nature, I can answer quickly. However, when it comes to the prayers that are asking Me to work in people's lives, this is a different matter. It's not that I don't answer but it's because I do not force anyone, and much is left up to the person's choice and decisions. (15)

No matter what condition a person is in, I can speak to their heart, as can My angels and ministering spirits. We can seek to influence their thoughts. We can in fact force them to hear us and even see us, even if they are not open and receptive. But what we cannot make them do is believe us, receive us, and obey us. That is the essence of the majesty of choice, which I have given to man, and which I do not override. That is part of My plan for humanity. I gave man free choice, and I must let him choose his path, his destiny, even his end-no matter how bitter.

Some do not consciously realize how the choices they make each day are affecting their lives and where their choices are taking them. Others see it very clearly. Yet in every case, the fact is that I can say and do whatever I want, even miracles and wonders-and I do many things in answer to specific prayers-and yet, when a person chooses to reject the voice of My Spirit, even to reject the opportunities and blessings that I place in front of them in answer to your prayers, I cannot force them. I cannot force them to obey, no matter how much it is for their own good and benefit, if they are determined to do otherwise. I cannot force them to receive My blessings, no matter how much I want to bless them. (16)

There are many things I do in both the short term and long term because of people's prayers, but because you're dealing with people and they must learn and grow and make decisions and choices and sometimes learn through experience, this just takes time--sometimes a long time. But your prayers are working all the while, -every day, even if you don't see the results immediately. The prayers are always working, always effective, always fruitful and always effecting change. The prayer you pray today that you don't see answered right away is just as powerful as the prayer you see answered tomorrow. It will be answered, even if it's answered in 20 years. You may have heard stories of how a woman in some church prayed for her alco-holic husband to get saved, and people thought her prayers were in vain, but then 20 or 30 years later he got saved. All those prayers were heard and answered; if she had not prayed them, she wouldn't have seen the miracle.

Prayers for people often take time. I have to work in the person's heart, and it takes time for them to learn and come to a decision on their own. It's a little like a sculptor who begins to carve a statue out of granite. He sometimes takes years, chipping here a little and there a little and sometimes hardly seeing any progress at all. Yet in time it begins to take shape, and eventually you have a beautiful statue. It's sometimes the same way with prayers you pray for people and their

circumstances, the changes they need to make, etc. You have to chip away with your prayers, constantly, faithfully. Some people can be pretty hard, just like stone, but over time your prayers will bring about the beautiful results in the finished product--that changed life, the work of your faithful prayers--and you will see that it's worth it all, every prayer.[17]

1. General Prayer Vitamins #3654d:2
2. Action Through Prayer--Part 2 #3325:4-7
3. General Prayer Vitamins #3654d:4
4. General Prayer Vitamins #3654d:5
5. Action Through Prayer--Part 3 #3339:69-70
6. General Prayer Vitamins #3654d:10
7. Action Through Prayer--Part 3 #3339:38-40
8. Action Through Prayer--Part 5:#3414:102
9. General Prayer Vitamins #3654d:3
10. Action Through Prayer--Part 5 #3414:107
11. Greater Faith, Part 1 #3628:25
12. Action Through Prayer--Part 5 #3414:109
13. Introduction to the Keys Promises #3428:42-49
14. Action Through Prayer--Part 3 #3339:41-48
15. Action Through Prayer--Part 3 #3339:79
16. Q&A's On Angela and Ricky's deaths, persecution, and other issues #3545:142, 143
17. Action Through Prayer--Part 3 #3339:81, 82