



All Prayers Are Answered!

But "No" is the answer we'd rather not hear!

Today's Prayer Question

What's Going On When God Says "No"?

Contradictory Prayers

When different people pray about the same thing, asking for opposite outcomes, some have to receive a "no" answer!

It's impossible for God to say "yes" to every prayer!

Father Knows Best!

Sometimes God says "No" because he wills something different.

1 John 5:14, NIV

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Luke 22:42, NIV

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Sabotaging Our Own Prayers

Sometimes we get in the way of a "yes" answer.

God may withhold something he wants to give us because we aren't ready to receive it!

Too Quiet?

Sometimes God's "no" is only "no" because we haven't actually made the request.

...you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

James 4:2, NLT

Too Selfish?

Sometimes God says “No” because we’re more interested in our own comfort and pleasure than in his kingdom and glory.

James 4:3, NLT

And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure.

Too Doubtful?

Sometimes God says “No” because our God (and therefore our faith) is too little.

Mark 11:22-24, NIV

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Too Casual?

Sometimes God says “No” because our lack of persistence shows that we’re not deeply serious about wanting what we’re asking for.

Luke 11:9, NLT

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Too Dissonant?

Sometimes God says "No" because the neglected sin in our lives doesn't harmonize with our request.

Proverbs 28:9, NIV & 1 John 3:21-22, MSG

If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable...We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him.

Psalm 66:18, NLT

If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

When God's Answer Is "No"

Remember that he will always meet your needs – even when he withholds your wants.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9, NLT

I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."

If God doesn't lighten your load, he'll strengthen your back!

When God's Answer Is "No"

Remember that his rejection of your request is not a rejection of you, his child!

Hebrews 12:6-7 & 10-11, NIV

...the Lord disciplines the one he loves...Endure the hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their Father?...God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.
