

Why Are Your Prayers Unanswered?

Lessons from the Master – Part 2

Life Church St. Louis – January 15, 2023

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – messages.lifechurchstlouis.org

John 16:24 (ESV) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Matthew 21:22 (ESV) And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

1 John 5:14-15 (ESV) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1. Never _____ praying

Luke 18:1 (ESV) And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Luke 18:2-3 (ESV) He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

Luke 18:4-5 (ESV) For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

Luke 18:6-7 (ESV) And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?”

Luke 18:8 (ESV) I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

2. Pray with a _____ attitude

Luke 18:9 (ESV) He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

Luke 18:10 (ESV) “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:11-12 (ESV) The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

Luke 18:13 (ESV) But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

Luke 18:14 (ESV) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Why Are Your Prayers Unanswered? Study Guide
Lessons from the Master – Part 2
Life Church St. Louis – January 15, 2023
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Intro. Why do you think many prayers are unanswered?

Does God want to answer your prayers (John 16:24)? Why?

What is a condition for answered prayer according to Matthew 21:22?

What is another condition for answered prayer (1 John 5:14-15)?

1A. How would you describe the point of Jesus' parable (Luke 18:1)?

1B. What can you learn from the widow's approach to the judge (Luke 18:2-3)?

1C. Why did the unrighteous judge change his mind (Luke 18:6-7)?

1D. Explain the meaning of Jesus' lesser to greater argument (Luke 18:6-7).

1E. Why does Jesus end this parable with the question of whether He will find faith on the earth when He returns (Luke 18:8)?

1F. How can you build your faith so that you do not give up on your prayers?

2A. What is Jesus' main point in this second parable on prayer (Luke 18:9)?

2B. What did the people of Jesus' day think of Pharisees and tax collectors (Luke 18:10)?

2C. What was wrong with the Pharisee's prayer (Luke 18:11-12)?

2D. What was right about the tax collector's prayer (Luke 18:13)?

2E. Explain Jesus' summary of the parable in Luke 18:14.

2F. How can you grow in humility in your prayer life?