

If someone were to ask you, what motivates you to pray, what would you say?

-for me the thing that motivates me to pray the most is answered prayer...

-I think opposite is also true, thing that demotivates us from prayer is unanswered prayer....

So why is it sometimes God says no, when we've seen he wants/able to answer?

-God tells us there are certain things that will be a roadblock to prayer in our lives

-Light overview of God's responses to our prayer - (each sermon) - Pray

Right into it... **IF OUR REQUEST IS WRONG, GOD SAYS NO!**

-plenty of times God said no to his disciples (Luke 9:51-56) if disc. made wrong requests can we?

-(Ja. 4:1-3) tells us why we make wrong requests

-there's a part of us that's **self-serving, materialistic, short-sighted, immature (FLESH)**

-if not surrendered to God, flesh will cause us to make what kind of prayer requests?

God says no to our wrong requests because He has a perfect plan and will for your life...

-it's for your life to bring glory to him/ advance his kingdom/ help others/ mature spiritually/

-your joy/contentment/fulfillment depends on this because this is what you're created for

-if your requests pull you away from that plan/will/ no matter how sincere you are - God says no

-that's why Jesus prays in the Garden, yet not my will, but your will be done!

-Jesus knew something about God's will (Romans 12:2) - it's good / pleasing / perfect

-might not feel good/pleasing for a while, but if you trust it/remain in it, discover it's perfect

if your request is wrong, God says no. **IF YOUR TIMING IS WRONG, GOD SAYS WAIT!**

-our society all about fast - fast lanes/ express deliveries/fast or free/fast fast fast

-result = hard time when we pray & God doesn't answer "right away" - wait feels like no, but isn't

God doesn't delay to torture us, his delays have specific reasons - what are some?

-test/build our faith (Abraham/Sarah 25yrs) - & if our faith is built what happen? = trust God more

-develop his character in us (James 1:2-4)

-when you're struggling with why God's taking so long, remember (Isaiah 55:8-9)

(my prayer: make your will my will, your ways my ways, your desires my desires)

if your request is wrong, God says no, if your timing is wrong, God says wait...

AND IF YOU ARE WRONG, GOD SAYS YOU NEED TO GROW!

-there are things bible teaches God will not answer our prayer/opposes us - until we grow...

One reason God doesn't answer prayers - **DON'T PRAY (James 4:2 - You have not because..)**

-be honest with yourself for a second, are you a praying person

-not talking about grace/ occ. shout out to God /desperate (talking regular/persistent/earnest prayer)

-If not why not? Find out the reason, give it to God and begin to pursue him in prayer

-you have my word that I am doing everything I can to help us become a praying people

-if we don't grow in this area, we will continually fail to see the fulness of God's power at work....

Another reason God doesn't answer our prayer = **UNCONFESSED SIN? (Isaiah 59:2)**

-not going to talk about this a lot this morning - you've heard me talk a lot about this...

-point, your ongoing sin, will keep God from doing in your life/our church what he longs to do

If there's sin in your life and your tolerating it, and staying in it...

-don't waste your breath praying unless it's a prayer of confession followed by obedience

-first receive God's forgiveness & obey him and then he will listen when you pour your heart

Another reasons God doesn't answer our prayers is **CHEATING**

- cheating God: (read Mal 3:7-12) the situation - N.T. - Give Cheerfully (consider Christ)
- Mal. also talks about cheating our wives and the poor (but we'll look at that in second)
- the other way it's so easy to cheat today is the system (government/ internet - hurts your heart)
- God's point is honour me and I'll honour you - don't take short cuts honour me esp. when hard

Another reason God doesn't answer our prayers is **BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS.**

- read **Matthew 5:23,24/ 1 Peter 3:7/ Ephesians 4:32/ 1 John 2:9**
- here's the point, our relationship w/God is all wrapped up in our relationship with others
- no point in praying if we're **engaging** in conflict w/family, co-worker/ neighbour/ friend (Ro. 12:18)
- again ask God for forgiveness/ strength/ then go and make amends

Another reason God doesn't answer...**UNCARING ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE NEEDY.**

- read **Prov 21:3 / Isaiah 58:3-9**
- God's always been committed to developing a people who'll reflect his character in this world
- and his character always expresses concern and compassion for the afflicted

The last thing that will keep God from answering.. **LACK OF FAITH / UNBELIEF. (read Ja. 1:5-8)**

- this takes us back to last week, do you believe God really is Omnipotent/ all powerful
- do you really believe God can do all things, that nothing is impossible for him (in your life?)
- more you're convinced of God's ability, more you trust, more he demonstrates ability (**Mk. 11:23**)
- when you pray, plan on seeing God act!

When our request is right / timing is right/ we are right - God moves !

- don't you want that for your life?
- is any habit, sin, broken relationship, selfishness, pride, extra gain or anything else, worth it,
- don't you want all of God, the God that your read in the Bible working in you-through you?
- he wants to work more than any of us believes he can (more than we can ask/imagine)
- but it has to be his way, because his way is best, it's what we were created for
- it's where our fulfilment, joy, meaning, satisfaction is to be found

I can't say this enough. Our greatest need as a church in North America is a return to real prayer

- it's getting honest/humble w/ourselves and recognizing the roadblocks we've created/allowed
- it's confessing those things to God and getting on the path of obedience
- don't let your fear stop you/hold you back - believe in God and let him lead you
- join us for prayer tomorrow night - if prayer scares you, I understand - please trust me and come
- I'm going to keep saying this...
 - to the degree that we become a humble praying people
 - is to the degree that we'll see God move in our midst

Pray