



## Prayers That God Doesn't Answer!

The series title is 'When You Pray' because God assumes we *are* going to pray but we can't assume He answers every prayer. Did you know that there are Prayers That God Won't Answer? Well... that's what we are looking at today.

**When you pray**, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Matthew 6:7

**God doesn't answer the babbling, religious prayer.**

### God Doesn't Answer RELIGIOUS Prayers

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in **their own righteousness** and scorned everyone else: Luke 18:9

**Religion is confidence in my own ability to be right with God.**

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!' Luke 18:10-11

**Thank you I'm not as bad as some sinners. I've never slept around. You think that He has to answer your prayer, you're wrong.**

“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”  
Luke 18:13-14

### **Religion brings pride, humility brings righteousness.**

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.  
Proverbs 16:18

### **If we can't have faith in our own religion, what then?**

But when you ask Him, be sure that **your faith is in God alone**. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.<sup>7</sup> Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.  
James 1:6-7

**Why? Because you're divided between two kingdoms.**

## **God Doesn't Answer DOUBTING Prayers**

It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that **God exists** and that **He rewards those who sincerely seek Him**. Hebrews 11:6

**You must first believe God exists and He will reward you.**

The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.” “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”<sup>24</sup> The father instantly cried out, “**I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!**” Mark 9:22-24

**This is an honest prayer.**

## ***Sometimes God Answers NO***

**Paul Said...**

I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, 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. 2 Corinthians 12:7-8

Each time He said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

**Paul had an issue and begged the Lord but the Lord said NO!**

And even when you ask, you don’t get it because **your motives are all wrong**—you want only what will give you pleasure. James 4:3

## **God Doesn’t Answer HEATHEN Prayers**

**A heathen in the Bible, is one who does not acknowledge God.**

Pray no more for these people, Jeremiah. Do not weep or pray for them, and don’t beg me to help them, for I will not listen to you. Jeremiah 7:16

**They worship the queen of heaven, they have idols. I won’t listen.**

We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but He is ready to hear those who worship Him **and** do His will. John 9:31

The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayers of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

**What makes us right with God? Repentance. Not Religion.**

If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Psalm 66:18

## My Next Steps:

- ☐ Sign Up to Serve Today
- ☐ Pray in Faith 15 mins Daily

Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need. Proverbs 21:13

## [Making Spirits Bright Offering](#)



**This is the Last Sunday  
for Making Spirits  
Bright Offering.**

Give to help the poor and  
to bless our children.