

## Doctrinal Summary of Prayer: Responses & Reasons

With any prayer there are two components, the request for something, and a desire which motivated that request. The request is comprised of a petition made to acquire something or to accomplish something. The desire is comprised of a personal motivation which causes the individual to make the request.

When the believer utilizes his right to pray to his Father he is able to express the object of his desire through a request. God the Father maintains the sovereign authority to accept or reject either the request or the desire of the individual, or in some instances both. This identifies then that there are four basic answers to prayer:

1. "Yes!" to the request, and "Yes!" to the desire.
2. "Yes!" to the request, and "No!" to the desire.
3. "No!" to the request, and "Yes!" to the desire.
4. "No!" to the request, and "No!" to the desire.

Reasons God says no to both the petition and the desire:

1. Carnal operation of the believer.  
*"If I regard wickedness in my heart the Lord will not hear."* Psalm 66:18
2. Selfishness of the believer.  
*"You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."* James 4:2-3
3. Lack of faith by the believer.  
*"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."* James 1:5-8
4. Lack of compassion by the believer.  
*"He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered."*  
Proverbs 21:13
5. Pride of the believer.  
*"There they cry out, but He does not answer because of the pride of evil men."* Job 35:12
6. Lack of harmony in the home of the believer.  
*"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."* 1 Peter 3:7
7. Incompatibility with His will for the believer.  
*"This is the confidence which we have before 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 which we have asked from Him."* 1 John 5:14