

### THREE REASONS YOUR PRAYERS MAY NOT BE ANSWERED

Repeatedly, we are promised that God hears our prayers. The apostle John wrote that *“whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him”* (1 John 5.15). Jesus Himself promises that *“everyone who asks receives”* (Matt. 7.8). We depend on this promise and trust that God will answer our prayer. It is that trust that gives us peace during difficult times (Phil. 4.6). But when it seems that God does not hear us or does not respond to our prayers, it can shake our faith (Ps. 13.1; Job 21.15). Consider three reasons why your prayers may not be answered.

Sometimes our prayers will not be answered because there is sin in our lives. The prophet Isaiah wrote that *“your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear”* (Isa. 59.2). For some, God will not hear because they have never obeyed the gospel. Their sins remain because they have never received God’s forgiveness (John 9.31). For others, God will not hear because they have become a Christian having received His forgiveness, but they allowed sin to come back into their lives. Such was the case of the brethren addressed by John (1 John 1.6,7). To know that God will answer your prayers, you must know His forgiveness.

Sometimes our prayers will not be answered because there is trouble in our marriage. The apostle Peter wrote about the proper way husbands and wives are to treat each other. Then Peter warns that we must treat each other with love and respect *“that your prayers may not be hindered”* (1 Pet. 3.7). How do you talk to your wife? Are you patient with her? Do you put her needs ahead of your own? Do you provide spiritual leadership? Wives, do you show respect to your husband? Do you show the heart of God in your life by the way you conduct yourself? To know that God will answer your prayers, you must treat your spouse right.

Sometimes you can examine yourself and know that there is no sin in your life. You have done your best to treat your spouse well. Yet it seems like God is still not answering your prayers. In those cases, God is answering your prayers. At times, we ask for things that we do not need. In our finite knowledge and understanding, we think we need something, when in fact, the things we ask for are not in our best interest. In other words, it is not according to His will (1 John 5.14). Therefore, those prayers will be answered, but the answer is “no.”

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

March 6, 2022

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#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

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#### WHO IS THE LORD?

In Ephesians 4.5, the inspired writer puts forth the idea that there is *“one Lord.”* The word *“Lord”* is translated from the Greek word *“kurios.”* Literally, it means, *“supreme in authority”* [Strong]. Paul writes that there is only one who is supreme in authority? Who could that be?

If we back up to Ephesians 4.4, we are told that there is *“one Spirit.”* If we skip down to verse 6, we learn that there is *“one God and Father of all.”* The *“one Lord”* is not referring to the Holy Spirit. The *“one Lord”* is not referring to the *“one God and Father.”* The *“one Lord”* is Jesus Christ. In Acts 2, Peter proclaims Jesus to be *“both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2.36). The one who is supreme in authority is Jesus.

This authority was not inherent in Christ, but was bestowed upon Him. Jesus declared, *“all authority has been given to Me”* (Matt. 28.18). Who gave Jesus all authority? When praying to the Father, Jesus said, *“All things that you have given Me are from You”* (John 17.7). Jesus has all authority that was given to Him by God.

What does that mean to us? We follow Jesus. We submit to His authority. We follow His design and rule in His kingdom (Eph. 1.22,23). Indeed Jesus is Lord to the glory of God. CLP

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## SERVING THE LORD IN OLD AGE

### PSALM 92:14

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible references those who are older. (Phile 9; Luke 1.7)
2. At what age do you enter into old age? When is someone considered a senior citizen? (1 Chr. 29.28; Ps. 90.10)
3. Those who are older are still valuable and useful for the Lord.

#### I. EXPLANATION OF OLD AGE

- A. Those who are older will find life difficult.
  1. **ECCLESIASTES 12.1:** “...before the difficult days come”
  2. **ECCLESIASTES 12.3:** Getting old is hard.
- B. Those who are older have wisdom.
  1. **JOB 12.12:** “Wisdom is with aged men” (cf. Job 32.6-9)
  2. It is wise to listen to their wisdom. (Prov. 19.20; 13.1)
- C. Those who are older have honor.
  1. **LEVITICUS 19.32:** “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man”
  2. The elderly deserve respect. (Prov. 20.29; 16.31)

#### II. EXAMPLE OF OLD AGE

- A. In his old age, Caleb was still ready to serve God.
  1. **JOSHUA 14.10:** “here I am eight-five years old.”
  2. **JOSHUA 14.11:** “just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war”
- B. Are you still willing to serve as an older Christian?
  1. It is only when we step into eternity that we can cease from working. (Heb. 4.10; Rev. 14.13)
  2. Even when he was “well advanced in years,” Zacharias was still serving in the temple. (Luke 1.7).

#### III. ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OLD AGE

- A. Those who are older can be fruitful.
  1. **PSALM 92.14:** “They shall still bear fruit in old age”
  2. You can still be productive. (James 3.17,18)
- B. Those who are older can be fresh.
  1. **PSALM 92.14:** “They shall be fresh”
  2. Paul was still working. (Phile. 9)
- C. Those who are older can flourish. (Ps. 92.14)

**CONCLUSION:** It is never too late to serve God. (Matt. 20.6,7)

## LEARNING HOW TO BUILD: FOUNDATION

Building successfully requires the right attitude. Just as the people “had a mind to work” (Neh. 4.6), so our desire and willingness to work is critical to build our homes, our lives, and the church. Attitude by itself is not enough. It also takes a strong foundation.

What is the foundation on which we must build? We find the answer in 1 Corinthians 3.11: “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” In an emphatic way, the Holy Spirit tells us that the foundation we must lay is Jesus Christ. If you try to build on a foundation other than Jesus Christ, your structure will not stand.

What does it mean to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ? Jesus Himself explains that “whoever hears these sayings of Mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matt. 7.24). To build on the foundation of Christ is to build on the foundation of His teachings. Jesus Himself tells us that if you build on the basis of His word, then you will be a wise builder. In contrast, “everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand” (Matt. 7.26). To build on anything other than the word of God is to build something that will ultimately fall.

The teachings of Jesus extend beyond the words that are written in red. Jesus tells His apostles that they were to teach “all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28.20). Jesus also tells them that the Holy Spirit “will take what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16.14). Therefore, the writings of these inspired men contained in the New Testament constitute the teachings of Jesus. For this reason, the apostle Paul wrote that the church was “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Eph. 2.20).

If you want to build a strong family, it must be built on the teachings of Jesus, the New Testament. That means that the way husbands and wives treat each other (Eph. 5.22-33), and the way they raise their children (Eph. 6.1-4), are consistent with the teachings of the New Testament. If you want to build a strong church, it must be built on the teachings of Jesus. That means the work, worship, and organization of the church must be based on the New Testament (1 Cor. 3.10). If you want to build a life that is rich and full, it must be built on the teachings of Jesus. That means that you follow His example (1 Cor. 11.1).

What is the foundation of everything that you do? Is it the principles of the world? The teachings of a religious guru? Success will only come if you build on Jesus.

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of trials. And you need to always include God in the project. After all, *“unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”* (Ps. 127.1). CLP

To be a successful builder, you need a plan, the right tools, and a desire to build. Just as the man built his house on the sand (Matt. 7.26,27), building anything without proper planning will surely fail. Such is the case in building physical structures, and such is the case spiritually. Paul warns us that when we build, *“let each one take heed how he builds on it”* (1 Cor. 3.10). We build our families. We are involved in building the church. We work hard to build a life for ourselves. In our of our building projects, there is a process that must be considered.

Before we begin building, we must have a proper attitude. After hearing about the condition of Jerusalem, Nehemiah traveled to the city to help rebuild the city. It seemed like an impossible task. The Israelites were discouraged by the condition of the city (Ezra 3.12). The Israelites were disheartened by their enemies who kept trying to undermine their efforts to build (Neh. 4.1,2). They were overwhelmed with the monumental task before them (Neh 4.10) and the assaults from their enemies (Neh. 4.11). Yet they succeeded in rebuilding the city, the walls, and the gates. How did they overcome these seemingly insurmountable obstacles? Attitude!

First, they had a willingness to work. Nehemiah 4.6 tells us that the Israelites *“built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.”* There was a determination in the heart of the Jews that was so strong that nothing was going to stop them from finishing the job. So much so that half of the Jews worked on construction while the other half stood guard with weapons (Neh. 4.16).

Second, they trusted in the intervention of God. By themselves, such building project might have been impossible, but with God, it was impossible not to succeed. Nehemiah reminded them to *“remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses”* (Neh. 4.14). They knew that God was involved and trusted that He would see them through.

Whether you are building your family, building a better life for yourself, or involved in building up the church, it begins with a proper attitude. There needs to be a desire to build, even in the midst