

Introduction

1. It is a fact that if we are God’s children and petition Him in prayer according to His will that He will hear our prayers ([1 Jn. 5:14](#); cf. [1 Pt. 1:22-23](#), [3:12](#)).
2. It is also a fact that God will answer those prayers ([1 Jn. 5:15](#)).
3. This should present the child of God with great confidence and boldness to approach the throne of grace in prayer ([Heb. 4:16](#)).
4. We know that God both hears and answers our prayers but in what ways does God answer those prayers?
 - a. In other words, what kinds of answers should we expect from God?

I. Sometimes the Answer is No

1. Sometimes God answers our prayers by denying our petitions.
2. Certainly, this is the case of those whose prayers are not in accordance with His will or whose motives are not pure in asking ([Jm. 4:1-4](#)).

II. Sometimes the Answer is Wait Awhile

1. Sometimes God does not grant our petition at the time when we want it or request it.
 - a. We must remember that God does not work on our timetable ([2 Pt. 3:8](#)).
2. Such was the case with Jeremiah, when the captain of the forces and the people inquired of him how they should walk ([Jer. 42:1-4](#)).
 - a. God answered Jeremiah’s prayer after ten days ([Jer. 42:7](#)).
3. Nehemiah also wept and prayed for the children of God still in captivity, but it was not until later that God granted his petition and they were returned to Jerusalem and freed from captivity ([Neh. 1:1-4](#), [2:1ff](#)).
 - a. God does not always grant the blessing of our prayers answered in the affirmative at the time when we request them.

III. Sometimes the Answer is Something Different

1. Sometimes God answers “no” to our request but then grants us something different than what we asked for.
2. Consider Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ([Lk. 22:41ff](#))
 - a. God did not remove the cup from Him but He did grant Him the strength to face it.

- b. He was certainly heard ([Heb. 5:7](#)).
3. Sometimes we may mean well but not ask for the right thing.
 - a. God will not grant us that particular request but may give us something different.

IV. Sometimes the Answer is Yes and Exactly

1. Sometimes God answers our prayers in the affirmative and with exactly what we pray for.
2. This was the case with the prophet Elijah ([Jm. 5:17-18](#); cf. [1 Kgs. 17:1-18:46](#)).
3. We see this with the church who prayed for Peter's release from prison ([Ac. 12:5-17](#)).
4. God will grant us exactly what we seek when we ask for the forgiveness of our sins based upon our repentance and confession ([1 Jn. 1:9](#); cf. [Ac. 8:22-24](#)).

V. Sometimes the Answer is Yes and More

1. Sometimes God grants us more than what we ask and far above our expectations.
2. Consider King Solomon ([1 Kgs. 3:5-14](#)).
3. God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think ([Eph. 3:20](#)).
4. There may be times when we do not pray for our needs as we ought to yet God still provides ([Php. 4:19](#)).
 - a. God will give us those things which are needed to fulfill and carry out His will in our lives, even above and beyond what we ask.

Conclusion

1. There is nothing beyond the reach of prayer except those things which are not of God's will.
2. Thus, there may be times when our prayers are far too limited and we should look to God's will to direct us in our prayers.
3. We do not have so much to convince God to grant our requests, as we do to conform our lives to His will in our requests ([Rm. 12:1-2](#)).
 - a. He is willing and able, when we are.