

Introduction:

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.

John 14:13-14

Why do some prayers go unanswered?

- We just don't _____.

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

- We have _____.

¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

Psalms 66:18

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

1 Peter 3:12

- We come with the _____.

³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:3

- We fail to practice _____ and _____.

¹³ Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.

Proverbs 21:13

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39

Three theologies to embrace in the tension of unanswered prayers:

- A theology of _____ and _____.

Genesis 3
Romans 8:18-22
John 16:33
Philippians 3:10-11

- A theology of the _____ of God.

“All of God’s acts are done in perfect wisdom, first for His own glory, and then for the highest good of the greatest number for the longest time.”

- A.W. Tozer

- A theology of _____ and _____.

Romans 5:1-5
James 1:2-4

Jesus’ unanswered prayer:

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with Him, and He began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” He said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

³⁵ Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ “Abba, Father,” He said, “everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Mark 14:32-36

Discussion Questions:

1. What new insight have you learned about why some of your prayers go unanswered?
2. Which of the three theologies, “a theology of pain and suffering,” “a theology of the character of God,” and “a theology of salvation and sanctification,” is most challenging to you? Why?
3. Read Mark 14:32-36. How did Jesus’ unanswered prayer fulfill a greater purpose? How does this impact your life?
4. What is keeping you from completely surrendering to God’s sovereign will? Take some time to prayerfully ask God to help you surrender your control.