

Prayer – First Response or Last Resort Series
Message # 4: When Prayers Seem To Go Unanswered
Core Group Discussion Guide
September 30, 2018

Message Overview:

- Many times in The Bible God promises to answer our prayers.
- **God always answers – but not always the answer we want.**
- It's important to realize that God's answers to prayer come in four different ways.
 - (1) There are **DIRECT Answers** – When we pray for a specific request and it is granted at once without delay.
 - (2) There are **DELAYED Answers** – The request is granted, but it is deferred. The postponement is intentional on God's part. The timing is off.
 - (3) Sometimes there is a **DIFFERENT Answer** – Because of our selfishness and shortsightedness, we are not always aware of exactly what we need. A different answer, of God's choosing, is always best.
 - (4) There can be **DENIAL**. The average Christian who does not have his requests granted will complain that God did not answer his prayer. Such a conclusion is wrong. When God says "no," that is an answer.
- **SO ... what do I do when God says "NO" to my prayers?**

Text:

Hebrews 4:13; Isaiah 55:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 12:8-10; Romans 8:28-29

Questions for Discussion:

- **OPEN IT –**
 1. When did a spouse, friend, parent, teacher, or coach say "No" to you – and you were later glad they did?!
 2. How does living in an "instant" society (I want it and I want it now) affect our prayer lives?
 3. What difficulties do you have with unanswered prayer?
- **EXPLORE IT –**
 1. Can you name some inappropriate prayer requests you have made?
What are some examples of inappropriate prayer requests we might make without realizing it?
 2. Why would God delay a prayer request?
 3. How have you coped with the problem of unanswered prayer in the past?
 4. Can you recall instances where the timing of your prayer request was wrong?
 5. What should our motives be behind our prayer requests?
- **APPLY IT –**
 1. How does an acknowledgement of God's power and wisdom help you when it seems your prayers are unheard?