

Seeking God Part 2:

Are all your prayers being answered if not, Why?

In the previous sermons that I have preached I have asked the questions are you Discouraged. Have you been asking God for answers in your Life and have not as yet been given and answer and you like Elijah are tired of the fight.

Last week I asked what is it that you are seeking God for?

This week I look into the reasons that God might not be giving you the answers that you are seeking.

In this illustration I look at David and his desire to build a house for God and God's answer to David and why.

The Lord's Covenant with David

2Sa 7:1 And it happened when the king dwelt in his house, and when Jehovah had given him rest round about from all his enemies,

2Sa 7:2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I live in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains.

2Sa 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart, for Jehovah is with you.

2Sa 7:4 And that night the Word of Jehovah came to Nathan saying,

2Sa 7:5 Go and tell My servant David, So says Jehovah, Shall you build Me a house for My dwelling?

2Sa 7:6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up the sons of Israel out of Egypt until this day, but have walked in a tent, even in a tabernacle.

2Sa 7:7 In all places in which I have walked with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the tribes of Israel, those I commanded to feed My people Israel, saying, Why do you not build Me a house of cedars?

2Sa 7:8 And now so shall you say to My servant David, So says Jehovah of Hosts: I took you from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

2Sa 7:9 And I was with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies out of your sight, and have made you a great name like the name of the great ones in the earth.

2Sa 7:10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them so that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more. Neither shall the sons of wickedness afflict them any more, as before.

2Sa 7:11 And even from the time that I commanded judges to be over My people of Israel, so will I cause you to rest from all your enemies. Also Jehovah tells you that He will make you a house.

2Sa 7:12 And when your days are fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your

fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who shall come out of your bowels. And I will make his kingdom sure.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the sons of men.

2Sa 7:15 But My mercy shall not leave him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.

2Sa 7:17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

David greatest desire was to build a house for God to dwell in. This is a noble cause if there are any. But God told David NO, Why? We find the answer in 1 Chronicles Chapter 28:

1Ch 28:2 And David the king stood up on his feet and said, Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building.

1Ch 28:3 But God said to me, You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.

Here we find that the reason that God said no was because David was a man of war, and to do what he wanted to do God required a man of peace. But the reason that David was a man of war goes back to an incident that happened during his time a king as we see in this passage in 2nd Samuel:

2Sa 12:9 Why have you despised the Word of Jehovah, to do evil in His sight? You have stricken Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

2Sa 12:10 And therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

As you can see that sometimes when we are asking for something in our lives God will say no or even may not answer at all because of something in our lives that we have done or are still doing.

Does this mean because of something we did in our past that God won't answer us? No, 1st John 1:9 says this:

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But sometimes what we are asking cannot be fulfilled because of what we have done. Such as David building the temple. God did not want his house to be associated with war but with peace and prayer, and because of David's past God could not let David build his house. So God gave that task to Solomon his son.

There are other times when what we are seeking is part of God's plan for our growth as we can see from this passage in James:

Jas 1:2 My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into different kinds of temptations,

Jas 1:3 knowing that the trying of your faith works patience.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him.

God sometimes allows us to go through things so that we learn to depend on him for our salvation and not those things that we currently depend on. It also helps us to develop a missing quality that is severely missing from today's philosophy. And that is patience, and wisdom.

Another reason why some of our prayers are not being answered is that we doubt that God will do what is needed to be done in our lives to make these things happen.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.

Jas 1:7 For do not let that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord;

Jas 1:8 he is a double-minded man, not dependable in all his ways.

When we come to God we have to believe that he will answer our prayers one way or another, sometimes just like in David's case the answer will be no, but we have to believe that God is going to answer and act upon what we ask for. We have to have faith in God for all things in our lives. The writer of Hebrews gives us a working definition of what Faith is:

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

By this definition just because we haven't seen the results we still need to believe that the answer is there all we have to do is look and act as if it has been fulfilled.

Sometimes as Christians we say that we believe and have faith, but the truth stands out when we ask God for something and put on the altar and if we don't see immediate results we take it back and start working on our own power. This is what James was referring to when he was talking about a double-minded man.

Sometimes we don't receive because we don't ask and sometimes when we do ask it's for the wrong reasons, as James says:

Jas 4:2 You desire, and do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and cannot obtain. You fight and war, yet you have not because you ask not.

Jas 4:3 You ask and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it upon your lusts.

Sometimes we don't ask because we are afraid of what the answer might be, sometimes we lack the faith to see the problem through. Other times what we ask for is so that we might receive things that are not healthy for our growth and us as Christians.

The question that I propose to you today is why are you praying for these things that God has not given you an answer for today?

The other question I have is are you standing on Faith to see the answers you are looking for?

Paul says this in Philippians about our lack of faith and double-mindedness:

Php 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Often as Christians we forget to give thanks to God for those things that we have not yet seen but are asking for. We need to show our Faith through thanksgiving and praise. God requires us not only to believe but to act on that belief through faith.

James puts it this way:

Faith Without Works Is Dead

Jas 2:14 My brothers, what profit is it if a man says he has faith and does not have works? Can faith save him?

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

Jas 2:16 and if one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, but you do not give them those things which are needful to the body, what good is it?

Jas 2:17 Even so, if it does not have works, faith is dead, being by itself.

Jas 2:18 But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith from my works.

Jas 2:19 You believe that there is one God, you do well; even the demons believe and tremble.

Jas 2:20 But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Jas 2:22 Do you see how faith worked with his works, and from the works faith was made complete?

As you can see that if we are not acting on our faith that faith is dead to us. We not only have to believe but act accordingly.

In conclusion

If you have not received answers to all of your prayers today I want you to ask yourself these questions.

1. Have you asked God to forgive you of all your sins, or are you still living in a state of sin today?
2. Is God currently working on you, to develop some quality that you are lacking such as patience, forgiveness, or even wisdom?
3. Are you asking God for answers and when you don't see an answer right away taking it back and trying to do it on your own?
4. Are standing on your faith even when you don't see the answer?
5. Why are you asking for these things? What's your underlying motivation?
6. Are you living what you believe? If you are praying for peace are you giving peace? If you are asking for better finances are you taking care of what God has already given you? If you are asking for healing are you praising Him for that healing even though you can't see it yet?

Only you can answer these questions for your life, God will always answer if you let him. But remember you have to live according to how you believe and according to how the word says to live. Remember what the bible says about sin and how you are to live.

I leave you with this statement from James:

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.