

WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

April 29-30, 2017

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When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer?

There's always an _____, sometimes it's _____

Reasons for God says NO

1. _____
James 4:3
2. _____
Psalm 66:18
3. _____
Matthew 17:20
4. _____
2 Corinthians 12:8-9

It's the _____ we can't _____ that cause us the most _____

³² "That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons."

Mark 1:32-39

"Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁴ ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" ⁷ "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." ⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath"

John 5:1-9

Memory Verse

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."

2 Corinthians 1:20

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Trust Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior for the 1st time
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 1:20
- Ask God to help me trust Him even when the answer to my prayer is no
- Turn my attention from God's no for now, to focus on His eternal yes in Jesus
- Get the most out of this series by signing up to join a CORE group

Be sure and invite a friend, family member or co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!
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Discussion Questions - Week # 2

COREGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

What impacted you the most from the message?

GETTING STARTED

1. What is one gift or toy that you always wanted as a child but never received? Why do you think you never received it?

2. Do you ever find God's refusal to answer your prayers to be a stumbling block in your faith?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read John 15:5-8. How do you make sense of the promise that Jesus makes in this passage with your experience of this promise in your life?

What does this passage imply is the purpose of God answering our prayers?

How might our habit of remaining in Christ and His word shape the prayers we pray and the things for which we pray?

Do you think our prayers will change the longer we are a follower of Jesus? If so, how?

4. Read Matthew 26:36-46. What is the greater surprise to you, that Jesus prayed three times to avoid the cross or that even Jesus did not always get the result he desired in prayer?

Why do you think Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him as he went off to pray?

Does the support of others make any difference to you when you pray? Why or why not?

What do you think of the qualifier when we pray "not my will, but yours be done?"

5. Read Psalm 88. What are your impressions from this Psalm?

If someone prayed this Psalm in your presence, how would you respond?

Do you think it's ok to pray in this way?

Do you think that praying in this way evidences a lack of faith?

How long or how often is it ok to pray this way?

Do you find any hope in this passage?

Do you think this passage would be comforting to someone struggling with unanswered prayer? Why or why not?

TAKING IT HOME

6. What is one change you can make this week to ensure that you are speaking words of life and not words that bring death?

7. How can the group be praying for you to guard your heart against the influence of toxic words from people in your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS