

prayers because we're at odds with others and perhaps answer our prayer might even be detrimental to those others. Perhaps prayers are not answered because a community of faith is not cohesive in their understanding of their mission and ministry.

A second reason prayer might go unanswered is having the wrong motive. Here an often mentioned wrong motive for church growth: "We need the financial support of new members!" Is that really the reason we would want others to enter into a life-changing relationship with God through Christ? Consider these two possibilities for prayer to go unanswered. What are your ideas? What wrong motives can you imagine? What relationship might need repair before God would answer our prayers? Write your thoughts here.

Thursday, May 2

Read Mark 9:14-29. The father in this story proclaims a truth that many of us might connect with: "I believe; help my belief." The third possibility for why God doesn't answer our prayer is our lack of faith. Throughout this passage from Mark's gospel what examples of a lack of faith do you read? St. Augustine, a fourth century philosopher and theologian wrote, "Without God, we cannot. Without us, God will not." What part does our faith or lack thereof play in God answering our prayers? Do you find comfort in the fact that others sometime lack faith? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

Friday, May 3

Read I John 5:13-21. Pastor Jack counsels people to pray boldly, asking for what you desire in Jesus name and finally to pray for God's will to be done. The fourth reason for God not answering our prayer is that God had something different for us. Think about your life and how it is different from what you imagined. Have you blessed beyond our imagination? Give thanks to God as you write some responses here.

Message Notes – April 28, 2024

Ever Wonder Why?

Why Didn't God Answer My Prayer?*

- I. We often talk about the _____ of prayer. So, let me ask you, do you believe in the _____ of prayer?
 - A. Prayer can be powerful and it can be _____.
 - B. In fact, when we consider the words of Jesus about prayer, our _____ can be built up and we can also be confused at the same time.
- II. When we are dealing with deep and significant issues, we can't address those issues and build a theological _____ about those issues around just one brief passage of scripture – or even a couple.
 - A. We need to look at the _____ of scripture in order to build understanding of deep and significant issues.
 - B. This is important because when dealing with this weighty question of unanswered prayer there is the possibility that some people will just _____ from their faith.
- III. Why didn't God answer my prayer? Four _____.
 - A. First, maybe you have a broken _____.

 - B. The second reason that God might not have answered our prayers is maybe we just have the _____.

*John 14:1-14 and I John 5:11-15

- C. A third possible reason is maybe when we prayed, we didn't believe God would actually do it. We're lacking _____.
- D. The fourth reason I see in scripture that God may not have answered your prayer, is maybe simply because God has _____.

- IV. My advice when it comes to prayer is pray _____ for what you want, checking yourself in terms of whether you can honestly pray for what you want in Jesus' name and finally, end your prayer by praying for _____.

 - A. We have to understand that the _____ of prayer is not to get God to do what we want.
 - B. The _____ of prayer is _____, it's to get to know God.
 - C. My faith is not based on what I see or _____ from God; my faith is based on _____ God is!
 - D. God is _____ (all the time) and all the time (God is _____).

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, April 29

Read John 14:1-14. The message began with the question, do you believe in the power of prayer. We often hear the phrase “power of prayer” but at the same time, prayer can be confusing. Jesus

said in verse 14 of the scripture for today, “If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” However, we all have examples of unanswered prayers; Pastor Jack shared several examples of unanswered prayers in comparison with outrageous prayer that were answered in the Bible. How about you? Do you have some unanswered prayers that come to mind? Do a couple of those unanswered prayers continue to bother you? How do you find prayer confusing and yet possibly powerful? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, April 30

Read John 14:1-14. Verses 13 and 14 seem to indicate Jesus' willingness to grant anything that is prayed for in His name. As we mentioned in yesterday's devotion, we know that not all of our prayers are answered in the positive. And perhaps that's the issue, not all our prayers are answered with a “Yes!” Sometimes the answer is no and often the answer is wait; sometimes we must wait for God's perfect timing. As mentioned in the message, we cannot begin to address and understand deep and significant issues from the perspective of just a few verses. We need the witness of the fullness of all scripture. During the message there were a number of scriptures mentioned that illustrates this very point. What do you think? Isn't it proper to address a theological issue from as much scripture that is relevant? Think about this and write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, May 1

Pastor Jack shared four possibilities to answer the question, why didn't God answer my prayer? These possibilities come from Pastor Craig Groeschel, Pastor of Life Church in Oklahoma City. The first possibility why God doesn't answer prayer is that we may have a broken relationship. Sometimes God doesn't answer