



Pastor Titus A. White, Sr.

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

**WOW – Word on Wednesday**  
***The Problem of Unanswered Prayer***  
***Luke 1:5-17***

**Intro:** We all face this common problem – Prayers that seem to go unanswered. Most prayers remain unanswered because they are unasked. The prayer and burden are in the head, but it is never offered to the Lord in prayer. There is no substitute for Prayer – not eloquence, effort, energy, enthusiasm, or intellect. When we pray, we are confessing our inabilities and reach up to claim His ability. We are inviting God into the processes and problems of our lives. There is a quote that says, “If you are too busy to pray, then you are simply too busy!”

**I. When The Answer is Denied (NO) – *There are times when God will say “No” to the prayer we pray.***

- a. This passage addresses a few of the problems that result in unanswered prayer. James 4:1-4
- b. James is straight to the point – people fight on the outside because they are at war on the inside. v 1-2 a
  1. Prayerlessness – is one of the reasons prayer is not answered. God cannot and will not answer a prayer that is not prayed. v 2b
  2. Selfishness – prayer does not exist so that we can have our wants gratified. We can expect the Lord to meet our needs, but not finance our greed. v 3
  3. Sin – God will not finance our spiritual adultery. He will not bless our efforts to run with the devil. v 4
- c. Here is another reason why our prayers are not answered. Psalm 66:18  
Prayer is not about getting our will done in Heaven, but about Him getting His Will done on Earth! 1 John 5:14-15

**II. When the Answer is Delayed (NOT YET) – *There are times when God says “wait” when we pray”(vs 13)*** Philippians 4:6

- a. Zacharias and Elizabeth had been praying for years.
  1. When they were young, they prayed for a son.
  2. This passage confirms the truth that his prayers had been answered in the past.
  3. God waited for the right moment to display His answer.
- b. This truth is illustrated in the life of Daniel. Daniel 10:10-14
- c. We are taught throughout Scriptures to make our prayers in faith, trusting God to answer in His time. Mark 11:24
- d. When God delays the answer to our prayers, He is merely waiting for a time when He can get the most glory. Isaiah 30:18
  1. To display His glory.
  2. To dispense His grace.

**III. When the Answer is Different (NEITHER) – *Sometimes God says “Watch”. Sometimes He will take our prayers and make them better!*** John 15:16  
Luke 5:4

- a. They wanted a child in their young age – God gave them a son in their old age.
- b. Here is God’s promise to His people. Psalm 34:10  
Psalm 84:11

- c. God always gives us His best when we leave the choices to Him!
- d. If He withholds something from us or changes it to something different,  
it is because what we asked for wasn't good enough for us!

1 Peter 5:10

**IV. When the Answer is Delivered (NEVERTHELESS)**

- a. When the answer is in your hand – praise Him and report it!
- b. When the answer is in your heart – praise Him and wait for it!
- c. When He reveals a better way – praise Him and accept it!
- d. Until the answer comes, keep praying! God will come through in His time!