

GOD ANSWERS

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'Praise be to the Lord for He has heard my cry for mercy.'
(Psalm 28:6)

David is praising God for answered prayer, as God answered David's prayer He can also answer our prayers. God answering our prayers is Him granting us mercy, because He doesn't *have to* answer but He chooses to incline His ear to us and answer our prayers. We are not entitled but we are in a position of privilege.

'I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.' (Psalm 17:6)

In order to receive an answer we need to first call on God, ask Him.

"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."
(Luke 11:9-10)

If God has not answered you yet it's because He has the situation in control and He knows what's best. You waiting for answer is not because He has let you down or abandoned you. God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19).

Ask, seek, knock...be in constant communion with God

'Prayer is our best help when trials come our way because it keeps us in communion with God.'

– *Life Application Study Bible*

Be a Christian not just by name but work on having a real relationship with God. Talking to God regularly helps us to know Him more and align with His will and purpose and also helps us to build our trust in Him.

For what great nation has a god as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us whenever we call on him?
(Deuteronomy 4:7)

Are our prayers in line with God's plan?

- Has my desire been for the wrong things?
- God answers/grants according to His will

Like the loving Father He is, He carefully picks out those things which are good for us and turns us away from those which are not. God grants some prayers for our good and denies us some things for our good.

Wait on God for an answer. If we have a desire to live a life that pleases God we will wait for His answer and accept what the answer is even if the answer is not what you wanted it to be.

A God who answers

1. Jesus' prayer for deliverance

Luke 22:39-44

Jesus prayed: *'Father, if you are willing take this cup...yet not my will but your will be done.'*

God's answer: an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Him. God gave Him help to walk through it.

Similar to Psalm 138:3 – *'As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength.'*

2. Elijah prays out of fear and hopelessness

Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died." (1 Kings 19:3-4)

God's answer: God showed up and spoke to Him in a 'gentle whisper'. He also gave him instructions to anoint three people, one of whom being Elisha who then became his attendant and walked with him for years to come.

3. Isaac prays for Rebekah

Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The LORD answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins. (Genesis 25:21)

4. Jacob's prayer brought reconciliation

Save me, I pray from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. (Genesis 32:9-11)



Jacob's prayer when he was afraid of Esau. A prayer out of fear but a prayer for reconciliation. How people respond to your apology is out of your control. God answered and brought reconciliation (Genesis 33:4).

5. David's prayer of repentance

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. (Psalm 51:1-3)

2 Samuel 12:13 – Nathan says to David '*The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.*'

But David did still suffer the consequences of his actions and he lost his first son with Bathsheba. God is just and we must not forget that.

6. Solomon prayed for wisdom

Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3:7-13)

The task God has set before us can seem too great but instead of running away from it our answer should be God help give me the tools we need to get it done.

God answered and He was so pleased that He granted it and gave him more than he asked for.

If you can learn to pray and wait it will probably save you a lot of stress.

'At the right time I the Lord will make it happen.'
(Isaiah 60:22b)

Conclusion

God answers:

1. Suddenly (Matthew 15:28)
2. In a way we least expect (John 9:6_
3. In a more obvious way
4. With a 'no' (1 Kings 19:3-4)
5. While we are serving

Prayer is powerful and yes God wants you to cast your cares on Him but it would be a shame not to use the power of prayer to change our communities, our nation and pray for a change for the generations that will come after us, as well as praying for our own needs.

It starts with believing that God can answer prayers that seem impossible to us.

'Pray for anything and if you have faith you will receive it.'
(Matthew 21:22)'