Normally, God does answer prayers, but His timing is often different from ours. We tend to want immediate answers the moment we pray. That may happen if the request aligns perfectly with God’s timing.

However, if it is not God’s will for you to receive what you asked for at that moment, you must wait for His timing. This does not mean God has ignored your prayer—He has answered; it’s just that your answer may come tomorrow, next month, next year, or even years later. Some answers require preparation before we are ready to receive them.

It is impossible for a child who has not even started school to ask his father for a car and drive it the very same day, even if the father has the means to provide it. A wise parent would store the gift until the child is mature and ready to handle it. The same principle applies to God. Some prayers are answered immediately, while others require time until we are ready.

That’s why, after praying, it is wise to allow God’s will to be fulfilled, as David said:

> *Psalm 69:13–14*
>
> *“But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD, at an acceptable time; O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me in your saving faithfulness. Deliver me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be delivered from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.”*

However, there are prayers that God does not answer at all. These often fall into the following categories:

1. Prayers of Lust or Greed

These are requests made not out of need, but for pleasure, competition, or display.

For example, someone may pray for money, not to solve a genuine problem, but to show off to others or indulge in luxury. Such prayers are not answered because the heart’s intention is wrong.

> *James 4:3*
>
> *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”*

It is crucial to examine the motivation of our prayers. Are we asking for a genuine need, or out of selfish desire?

2. Prayers of the Wicked

Those who do not love God in their hearts but still want His blessings will not have their prayers answered.

A murderer who refuses to repent, a thief who continues stealing, or an adulterer who does not intend to change—even if they hear sermons every day—their prayers are not answered.

> *Isaiah 1:15–17*
>
> *“When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;*

> *your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.”*

3. Prayers of Complaining and Grumbling

Prayers filled with complaints or a sense of being wronged often receive the opposite of what is desired. Instead of receiving blessings, one may lose even the little they have.

> *1 Corinthians 10:10–11*
>
> *“Do not complain, as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened as an example for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.”*

Avoid grumbling in prayer. Instead, pray with thankfulness, humility, and respect.

4. Prayers that Test God

This includes prayers that challenge God, like the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

> *Luke 4:9–12*
>
> *“He led him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ ...Jesus answered, ‘It is said, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

Do not pray to “see what God will do.” Such prayers do not receive answers and may instead bring discipline rather than blessing.

> *1 Corinthians 10:9*
>
> *“We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and*

> *were destroyed by serpents.”*

Conclusion

Be mindful of these four types of prayers:

1. Prayers motivated by lust or selfish desire
2. Prayers from the unrepentant or wicked
3. Prayers of grumbling and complaint
4. Prayers that test God

Guard your heart and your intentions so that your prayers are answered according to God’s will.

May the Lord bless you.

To receive daily teachings via WHATSAPP

, join our channel:

Click here to join

Please share this message with others.

For Prayer / Counseling / Questions (WhatsApp):

Write in the comment box below or contact us at:

+255 789 001 312

+255 693 036 618

Share on:
WhatsApp