

WHY DIDN'T GOD ANSWER MY PRAYER?

Pastor Ken Ritz * April 27, 2014 * New Life Vineyard Church

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD WHEN YOU PRAY?

1) Your _____ Matter.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mark 11:24-25

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7

2) Your _____ Matter.

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives... James 4:3

People may think all their ways are pure, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Proverbs 16:2

3) The _____ Matters.

...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

4) Your _____ Matters.

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. Those who doubt should not think they will receive anything from the Lord... James 1:6-7

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment. Matt 9:20-22

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; and their sight was restored. Matthew 9:29-30 (NIV)

5) God's _____ Matters.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Luke 22:42-43

WHAT MATTERS MOST? A Relationship With God Through Christ.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What is something that you are currently praying for that God has apparently not yet answered?
- 2) Of the five things that matter to God (listed above in your notes), which one spoke to you the most? Why?
- 3) Have you ever experienced a time when God said "no" to your request? What did you learn on the other side?

* All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted