



## Lesson 9: Answered Prayer / Text: 1 John 3:22-24

Message focus: Learning to pray Biblically so more of our prayers can get answered.

1. Prayer is simply talking with God. We pray when we want to share our heart, a desire or a need. Unfortunately, some of us hold onto views about prayer that are not biblical. Look over the list below.

- Prayer is not necessary. We don't have to ask for things God already knows/sees that we need?
- Prayer simply moves the odds into our favor. It is like carrying a rabbit's foot or lucky charm.
- Prayer is like having a "Genie" in a bottle. We can ask for whatever we want and get it!
- Prayer is for lazy people. God helps those who help themselves.
- Prayer doesn't work, I've tried it. God either doesn't hear or doesn't care.

Which one(s) have you believed? Are you tempted to believe any of them now? If yes, why?

Which one do you think is most common? How would you respond to someone who holds that view?

2. One thing that often discourages prayer is an apparent lack of answers. Sometimes we don't know why our prayers seem to go unanswered. Sometimes the reason can be traced to something specific.

What reason is given in each of the following scriptures for unanswered prayer?

- Psalm 66:18      **A.**
- Matthew 7:7-8    **A.**
- Hebrews 11:6    **A.**
- James 4:3        **A.**
- 1 Peter 3:7      **A.**

Might one of these reasons be why you have an unanswered prayer right now? If yes, explain.

**A.**

3. Let's focus now on our text in 1 John 3:22-24. What prerequisites for getting our prayers answered are given?

**A.**

Do you think it is right and fair of God to establish these prerequisites? Why or why not?

**A.**

4. 1 John 3:22 also provides a very practical way of looking at our obedience. The NKJV says God answers our prayers because we “do those things that are PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT”. What imagery comes to your mind when you think about your obedience being something that pleases God?

**A.**

5. Many of us were raised by a father and/or mother who was loving, supportive, and giving. Such parents were probably far more likely to give us what we asked for if we were living within their desires (guidelines/expectations) for us.

When did obedience to your parents result in you getting something special you asked for?

**A.**

6. Why should we be even more willing to submit to God than we were to our parents? (*Matthew 7:11, Ephesians 3:20*)

**A.**

7. With our heart set on obeying the will of God, we are more likely to pray biblical prayers and receive answers. I have attached a few places in the Bible where prayers are recorded. What request is made in each one? Write it down, and commit to praying/asking for the same thing for yourself or someone else (*Breakout Group leader, Pastor, friend, etc*) for at least the next week. Keep in mind that the prayers most pleasing to God are those grounded in the Scriptures.

**Ephesians 6:19**

**A.**

**Colossians 4:12**

**A.**

**2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**

**A.**