

Week Two

Unanswered Prayer

Greet Everyone

Ask for Prayer Concerns

Pray

Questions about the Sermon Topic?

Biblical view of Prayer

Ask Three people to read one of these three scriptures on Prayer.

Psalm 22:2

John 15:7

Luke 22:42

After all three are read simply say that there are many different views of prayer in the bible these are just three

People struggle with their faith because of unanswered prayer...

Ask if anyone would share a personal experience of unanswered prayer

Talk about people who say God regularly answers their prayers

Parking spaces, td passes

Jesus view on Prayer

Matt 21:21-22

Is Jesus promising to do whatever we want if we have faith?

What happens when the person we pray for dies?

OR we don't get the job we want?

Is it a lack of faith? Is it OUR fault?

Talk about those in the NT Jesus did heal.. .Blind Bart, Lazarus, the Lepers, etc... Were they totally faithful? No.. Jesus heals because he is holy not because he heals the holy

Faith is of course important..but there is more to it than that

Jesus spoke in hyperbole... (if you sin because of your eye cast it out, if it is the hand...cut it off).. Easier for a camel to pass thru eye of a needle than a rich man to go to heaven etc.....

So when Jesus says whatever we pray for in faith will be given is it a literal saying or is it a challenge to boldly pray in faith

Hyperbole is not logically possible so we know when we hear it, its a figure of speech

So Jesus was saying go to god be bold bring him your burdens
God will see you through

What would the world look like if the words were literal.. What kind of car would I be driving...How many times would y team win the World series...et....

2 unanswered Prayers in NT

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

We dont know what the affliction wa... but three times he prays for healign and the answer.. Gods grace is enough... REALLY? Thats it...

Paul saw.. unanswered prayer(at least unanswered as we would see it) as an opportunity to grow in grace and strength

2nd Luke 22:42

God did not deliver JEsus...what would have happened if he had?

So what do these accounts teach us about unanswered prayers

God may not answer how we want but he does not abandon us.. Some times unanswered prayers lead to events that change the world

So how does God answer prayer

God typically works through natural laws and through people

Miracles can happen.. but by definition they are rare

We are the answer... we are nudged into action

God will not suspend others free will to answer prayer

Thanking/blaming God

Hurricane Katrina... People prayed that the hurricane would not hit them... the people who just missed being hit by hurrican katrina... was it because of answered prayer? Does that mean those who were hit didn't pray hard enough?

We need to be careful....

Purpose of prayer....

In the end what is the purpose of prayer? Ask.. My answer.
Conversation with God