



## God Didn't Say He Answer Prayers

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"There was a judge in a certain city, who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!' Jesus said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he gave a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?" Luke 18:1-8

"I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt you can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen."  
-Jesus, Matthew 21:21

## God doesn't answer prayer... but He does answer pray-ers.

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the unbelievers do." - Jesus, Matthew 6:7

When I gaze into the night sky and see the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, suspended in space, What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? Psalm 8:3-4

## There is no power in prayer... There is power in God.

"Your Father knows what you need before you ask." -Jesus, Matthew 6:8

"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him." - Jesus, Matthew 7:9-11

## Prayer doesn't change things. God changes things.

We don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. Romans 8:26-27

**"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me" -Jesus, Luke 22:42**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7**

### For your LifeGroup and personal growth...

What is your initial response to, "God doesn't answer prayers"? What's the difference between God not answering prayers vs. God answering Pray-ers? How does that help us?

Read Matthew 7:7-10 and Luke 18:1-8. How does this help us with our understanding of prayer?

How has prayer become too formulaic in your life? Talk about how prayer and closeness with God begin to take away the need for direct answers. How challenging is this to us?

Is it ever OK with you if God does not 'answer' your request the way you want?

Take a look at Philippians 4:6-7. What is this saying about God answering prayer (Or does it say anything about it?)? What can we get from this promise?

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you ([emma@marinerscc.org](mailto:emma@marinerscc.org))