

# Prayer

## Ask, seek , knock

Matt 7v7-12

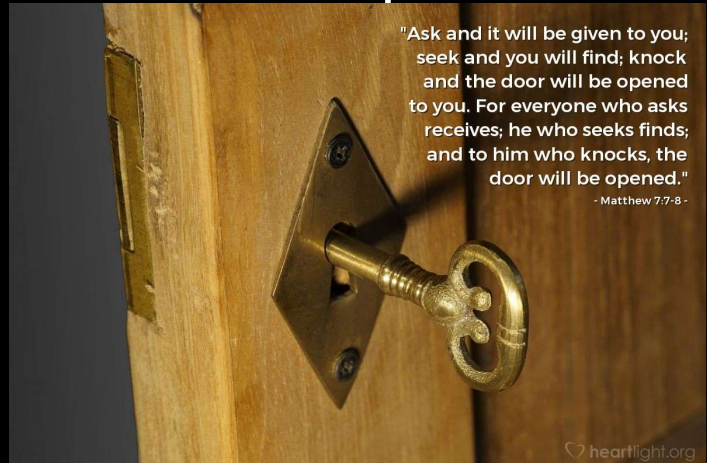
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7. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.



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<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.



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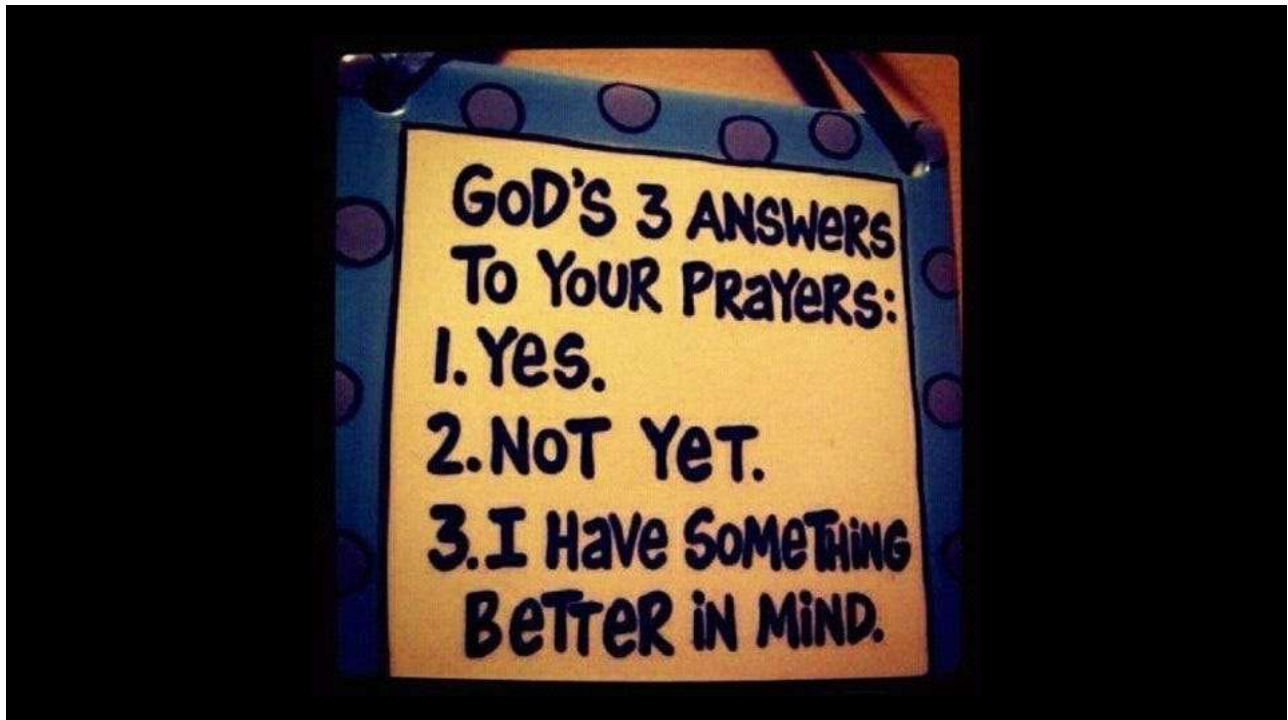
So why can prayer seem unanswered?  
and God seems silent?



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*<sup>9</sup> 'Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

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## Reasons for unanswered prayer

- 1.Lack of faith, doubting
- 2.Unconfessed sin or disobedience
- 3.Wrong motives, not God's will but personal desires
- 4.For our own protection
- 5.Need further growth

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## 1.Lack of faith

James 1v5-8 <sup>5</sup> *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*  
<sup>6</sup> *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.* <sup>7</sup> *That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*

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## Mark 9v23-24

<sup>23</sup> *“If you can?” said Jesus. **‘Everything is possible for one who believes.’***<sup>24</sup> *Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; **help me overcome my unbelief!**’*

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## 2. Unconfessed sin or disobedience

Dwight L. Moody



There is no true prayer without confession. As long as we have unconfessed sin in our soul, we are not going to have power with God in prayer. He says if we regard iniquity in our hearts, He will not hear us, much less answer. As long as we are living in any known sin, we have no power in prayer. God is not going to hear it.

AZ QUOTES

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## 1 John 1v8-10

*<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

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## 3. Wrong motives

***Wrong  
Motive***

***Right  
Motive***

***Prayer***

*"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your own pleasures." James 4:3*

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## 1 John 5v14-15

*<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to his will**, he hears us.*

*<sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

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## 4. For our own protection

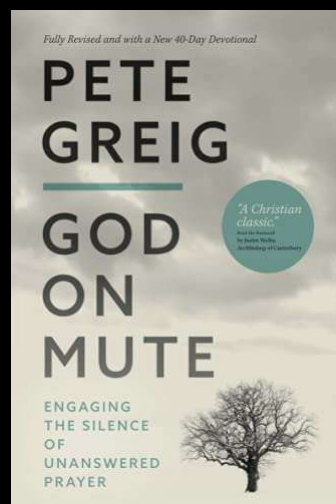


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## 5. Need further growth ( wait a bit longer...)



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A good, good Father



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When I pray,  
coincidences  
happen, and when I  
don't, they don't.

William Temple

BrainyQuote®

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