
UNANSWERED PRAYERS

Week 4: God Please Remove This Thorn!



What's your unanswered prayer? Everyone has had an unanswered prayer at some point in their life. Whether it's a need for healing, a situation to change, a relationship to be mended, or a blessing that we believe we need, unanswered prayers happen. Unanswered prayers can be tough. What do we do when our prayers go unanswered? What can we learn?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you prayed for some struggle to be resolved or need for healing. What specifically did you pray for, and how long did it take for the struggle or healing to be worked out?

2. **Read Psalm 13.**

One of the key phrase that guides the passage is “how long.” The length of God’s “forgetfulness” or “hiddenness” from the worshipper has created angst. Why is our tendency to jump to conclusions about God forgetting us or hiding from us when our prayers go answered? Discuss as a group.

3. One of the other key words in the passage is “enemy.” Who is the enemy in the passage? How might the enemy’s closeness and God’s distance from the psalmist create greater feelings of being forgotten or abandoned? How might this be the deeper issue of unanswered prayer?

Considering the enemy is death, do you think unanswered prayers create false assumptions that we are headed the way of death? How might our assumption of God “forgetting us forever” (vs. 1) and our feelings of being defeated or harmed by the “enemy” (vs. 4) be connected to this?

4. **Re-read Psalm 13:3-6.**

Do you think the tendency is for people to stop praying when they feel forgotten by God? How does the psalmist shift beyond feelings of being abandoned or forgotten? What does this show us about persistence in prayer? What does 13:6 show us about confidence in prayer?

5. Take time to pray for one another. Pray for openness and willingness to trust God for healing and deliverance in the midst of painful circumstances. Encourage one another to be faithful.

BE THE REVOLUTION

Sometimes unanswered prayers and feelings of abandonment can lead us to a deeper sense of trust in God.

RENOVATING THE HEART

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).