

God's Answers to Prayer

The story is told of three farmers who gathered daily during a horrible drought. The men were down on their knees, praying the skies would open and pour forth rain.

The heavens were silent, however, and the petitioners became discouraged. Nonetheless, they continued to pray every morning.

One morning, a stranger asked the men what they are doing. They said, "We're praying for rain." The stranger looked at each of them and shook his head. "I don't think so," he replied.

The first farmer said, "We are down on our knees, pleading for rain. Look around; see the drought. We haven't had rain in more than a year!" The stranger said their efforts won't work.

The second farmer said, "We need the rain; we aren't asking only for ourselves, but for our families and livestock." The stranger still isn't impressed. "You're wasting your time," he said.

The third farmer in anger said, "What would you do if you were in our shoes?"

"You really want to know?" the stranger asked.

"We really want to know!" the farmers said. "The future of our farmlands is at stake."

The stranger declared, "I would have brought an umbrella!"

There was a man who truly believed that God hears and responds to our prayers. And so do I. Here are some ways God answers prayer:

- **"No. I love you too much."** The Lord of the universe is not under obligation to say yes to every prayer we may offer, especially considering some of the things we request. And sometimes God says no to our most heartfelt petitions. While this can be a very difficult answer to receive, it is still an answer, regardless if we understand His decision at the moment or not. God is able to reveal His strength in you and me when we are broken and weak. So there is a purpose when God says no.
- **"Yes, but you'll have to wait."** Sometimes the toughest answer to receive from God is to wait. When this happens, we need to remind ourselves that God is in control and can certainly handle our situation. We need to allow Him to continue working in whatever way He sees fit. His timing is always perfect.

(more)



- **“Yes, but not what you expect.”** God may have a different – and better – plan for you. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV).
- **“I can’t hear you.”** Sometimes the Lord cannot hear us when we pray. And it’s not because we need to talk louder or speak more clearly. It may be because there is unconfessed sin in our lives.

God, indeed, does answer prayer ... and, yes, your prayers!

– Beecher Hunter 