

Analyzing Unanswered Prayer

Our prayers are sometimes not answered because we pray in vague generalities. When all our prayers are either vague or universal in their scope, it is difficult to experience the exhilaration that goes with clear and obvious answers to prayer. If we ask God to “bless everyone in the world” or “forgive everyone in town,” it would be difficult to see the prayer answered in any concrete way. Not that it is wrong to have a large scope of interest in prayer, but if all prayer is given to such generality, then no prayer will have specific and concrete application.

Our prayers are also hindered if we are at war with God. If we are out of harmony with God or in a state of rebellion toward Him, we can hardly expect Him to turn a benevolent ear toward our prayers. His ear is inclined to those who love Him and seek to obey Him. He turns His ear away from the wicked. Thus our attitude and reverence toward God is vital to the efficiency of our prayers.

We also tend to be impatient. When I pray for patience I tend to ask for it “right now!” It is not uncommon for us to wait years, indeed decades, for our most earnest petitions to be realized. God rarely is in a hurry. On the other hand, our fidelity to God tends to depend on “prompt and courteous” action by God. If God tarries, our impatience yields to frustration.

We also have short memories and easily forget the benefits and gifts we’ve received from the hand of God. This is the mark of the apostate—he forgets the benefits of God. The saint remembers the gifts of God and doesn’t require a fresh one each hour to keep his faith intact.

Though God does heap grace upon grace, we should be able to rejoice in God’s benefits if we never receive another benefit from Him. Remember the Lord when you go before Him. He will not give you a stone when you ask Him for bread.

Coram Deo

Reflect on these reasons for unanswered prayer to determine if they are affecting your prayer life: praying in generalities, being at war with God, being impatient, and forgetting the benefits you have received from God.

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June 6, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The End is at Hand

A person is standing on a beach at sunset, looking out at the ocean. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and purple. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

But the end of
all things
is at hand;
therefore
be serious
and
watchful
in your prayers.

1 Peter 4:7

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Missions Updates and Prayer

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration

“The Father’s House”.Asbury/Hastings/Hulse

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Song of Praise

“My Feet are on the Rock”. . . .Parker/Bronieewe/Sweat/Hein

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Galatians 2:20

Song of Renewal: “Give Me Jesus”.Fernando Ortega

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11(ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

“The End is at Hand”

Words of Institution:

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn

“Take My Life and Let it Be” (new).Havergal/Maian

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: “Come Lord Jesus”. Tomlin/Cates/Ingram

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 5/30/2021

Attendance: 36

Offering: \$1390.26

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Memorial Gifts

Jennifer Lynn Grubb

April 18, 1975 - August 25, 2016

When Jen passed away in August of 2016, we received memorial gifts given in her memory. The pulpit and the communion trays were purchased with those memorial funds. However, there remained a balance of \$420.71 that sat on our books since August of 2017.

Mary Ann Knarr

October 3, 1934- September 3, 2020.

We have been holding a balance of \$1050.00 of funds that were donated in memory of my mom since her death in September of last year. Memorial funds are not meant to be kept on the books they are meant to honor the life and ministry of the individual for whom they were given. There was a need on the worship team to update the percussion section. In fact, it is the first purchase that we have made in 10 years having to do with the drums that are used every week in worship. The elders thought it was appropriate to use \$1399.00 of the memorial funds to make this purchase. We believe that this is a fitting way to provide something tangible that will aid our worship for years to come. Jen loved to worship, and my mom was a musician herself.

Psalm 81:1–4 (ESV)

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! ² Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. ³ Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day. ⁴ For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

Singing with instruments is not just a good idea its God's plan for his church to worship him.

Pastor Rick

No matter the circumstances, we are to cling to the priority of love within the fellowship of the church. Don't let love ever slip from top of your priority list – that's what he's saying. That's why he says "above all, keep loving earnestly."

What Is Your Strategy for Obeying This?

Have a plan that will fan the flame of your love with intentional care and attention.

3. Share Your Food and Your Home with Delight

1 Peter 4:9 (ESV)

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Hospitality is not something we do overly pragmatically. We practice hospitality because it is right. We practice hospitality because we are God's people. We share God's goodness through our home because God has shown his goodness to us. His grace overflows the threshold of our homes.²

How Will You Make Your Home a Retreat and a Sanctuary for Others?

What is your plan to make your home a place where sojourners find refreshment and encouragement along the pilgrim way in this world?

4. We Are All to Use our Gifts for the Glory of God.

1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: "whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You all have gifts. You are called to serve with these gifts. This means letting the grace of God come through your unique gifts.

Why do we do it all? Verse 11, "*in order that in everything God might be glorified through Christ Jesus. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*"

When we serve others, we get close to the character and plan of God.

¹Piper, J. (2007). *Sermons from John Piper (1990–1999)*. Minneapolis, MN: Desiring God.

²Helm, D. R. (2008). *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: sharing christ's sufferings* (p. 142). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 8 6:00 –8:00 P.M. Youth(Grades 6-12) and Young Adults(under 30) meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study (groups separated), Volleyball, and ice cream.

Sunday, June 13 10:30 A.M. Graduate Recognition Sunday

Saturday, June 19 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Tuesday, June 22 7:00 P.M. Tactics Small Group will meet at the home of Karl and Cindy Yorgey

Sunday, June 27 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Saturday, July 10 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Monday, July 19-24 Youth Group goes to **Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Senior High Youth Week.**

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

David and Mindy Nelson

India is the nation with the LARGEST number of unreached people groups. Many of these do not have a Bible in their language. There are very few churches. As an unreached people group, it has less than 2% of Evangelical followers of Christ. One new Indian people group we are praying to reach is the Odia people. They live in Odisha state, where 44 million souls reside. Ninety-four percent are Hindu, and 2.3% are Muslim. Our plan, with your help, is to translate our curricula into the Odia language and equip Bible-believing Christians to reach the rest of the state.



Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for the opportunities that Tim and Holly will have this summer to work with interns that are coming into the media department. Their request is that the support raising will be finished so they can spend time with these young people. Their support is at 84%.
- Pray that students will attend the Bible Studies that are happening on the campuses where Disciple Makers are present.
- Pray for Disciple Makers staff as they prepare to minister on campuses where classes are returning to normal in the fall.

Prayer/Praise. June 6, 2021

- Pray for Margaret Henz, friend of Donna Jenkins, who is in a hospice center in Virginia. She is 89. Pray for her daughter Eva as she goes through this time with her mother.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. He is having a series of surgeries for severe burns over most of his body. Pray for his healing and for his family as they walk with him.
- Pray for God's comfort for Lisa Frame's co-worker Kathleen and her husband. They lost their baby recently when Kathleen was 8 months pregnant.
- Pray for Steve Simons' brother, J.J., who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Pray for God's strength for J.J.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Pray for mental, physical, and spiritual well-being on his behalf.
- Pray for Deana Deichert's father, who is receiving a hormone treatment for his cancer. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and healing for Deana's father.
- Pray that a position will open for Jeremiah Mace to be employed at Teen Challenge. Pray for healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, as he continues chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. He is scheduled for another bladder surgery on July 15.
- Pray that God reveals Himself to Koreen's friend, Amanda and her husband, John. Amanda's father is dying. Pray for support from John and peace and God's presence for the situation and for the father who does not know the Lord.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Pray for healing and salvation.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had two surgeries and is doing better. Diane needs more chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins, and her baby boy, Evan, who was born on May 5th. Pray for improvement in Evan's lungs. Pray for wisdom for the doctors and healing for Evan.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in this area.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

“The End is at Hand.”

1 Peter 4:7–11

The Big Idea

In verses 7 through 11 Peter speaks to us about how we are to relate to one another within the fellowship of the church; in light of the end of all things. He says here is how you are to live. Jesus is coming. He starts with how we handle ourselves in verse 7, then how we treat one another in terms of our attitudes, our heart affections, verse 8; then a step further out from there, how that should be displayed in the concrete practice of Christian hospitality, verse 9. Then finally, all the way out into the varied ministries that we are to exercise within the fellowship of the local church, verses 10 and 11. All of which tells us that for Peter, the light of Christ's coming, the certainty of His return, is to be pervasive.

1. Stay Sober

1 Peter 4:7 (ESV)

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

The first strategy for not getting absorbed into this age—especially since the end of this age has already begun with the coming of the Messiah—is to “be of self-controlled and sober minded” with a view to staying in touch with the foreign king back in the homeland of heaven.¹ “Be in your right mind” and “be sober.” There is something about the present age and the present world that tends to put you out of your mind and make you drunk.

How Will You Obey Verse 7?

1 Peter 2:11 (ESV)

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

What steps are you going to take to keep your mind sound and your heart sober so that you don't gradually slide into the subtle mental delusion that this world is what really matters, and then lose your Christian identity?

2. Treat one another in Light of the End.

1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.