

SERMON NOTES

September 20, 2026

Why Did God Not Answer My Prayers?

Q: I have prayed according to Scripture, but God did not answer my prayers. In particular: God wants believers to be reconciled but after years of praying for that, the person is not willing and refuses to reconcile.

We live in a broken, _____ world where there will be times when our prayers will not be answered the way we want.

Matthew 6:10 *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

Pastor JD Greer: "The prayers that start in heaven are the ones that are heard by heaven."

1 John 5:14-15 *"And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us ... and we know that if He hears us, we have the requests that we have asked of Him."*

The Bible teaches that God wants people to be _____ to God and to one another. 2 Corinthians 5:18, *"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."*

Atonement = meaning to bring _____ separate sides back together as _____. To make _____. To pay the _____ in full.

Only Christ's perfect sinless sacrifice removes _____ and restores a right relationship with God. Only then can a person be reconciled to others.

Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."*

If there are broken relationships, stop what you are doing and go _____.

Romans 12:18 *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on _____, live at _____ with everyone."*

What if someone is unwilling to reconcile?

God has given each of us a _____ to align with or reject God.

When there is a broken relationship, especially that involves family members, the _____ of non-reconciliation can be some of the deepest pain experienced on earth.

God understands the pain from those who choose to walk away from His _____.

Some other verses on reconciliation:

Romans 5:10 *"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"*

Ephesians 4:32 *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

Hebrews 12:14 *"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."*

Luke 17:3 *"So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them."*

Just because He hears, does that mean He will act on the prayer request?

God is at _____ at work in two ways:

Aligning our _____ with His _____

Seeking _____.

El Shammah = The God who is there and who _____

Psalm 17:6 *"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words."*

Revelation 5:8 *"the prayers of his people are like golden bowls full of incense, rising up before Him".*

He stores our prayers, waiting to answer them when it is the _____ time to answer them.

Don't stop praying. Trust God to work out _____ plan.

Pray for God's _____ willingness.

"Not my will, but yours be done."