

# Prayer

Just asking God for something in prayer doesn't automatically guarantee that we will receive it. God is all-wise. He knows that some of the things we desire would be good for us, others would harm us, others would be good at a later time, and still others would be good if certain conditions were met. That's why He will answer every prayer we pray in one of four ways: Yes, No, Wait, or If. As His children, our attitude toward His decision regarding our prayers should be one of quiet acceptance - because we have confidence in His vast wisdom.

If a toddler asked to play with a nice, shiny butcher knife, a loving parent would never let it happen. The toddler may not understand the parent's decision - even if the parent tried really hard to explain the decision. The toddler may even cry and throw a temper tantrum, trying to convince the parent. But, a loving parent would remain firm in the decision out of love for the child. Eventually, the parent may let the toddler use the butcher knife, but not until the child is older and able to handle it.

"Yes" answers require certain conditions to be met.

Below are 8 Bible passages, each mentioning a requirement that must be present if we are to get an affirmative answer to our prayers. Write the requirement in the column on the right.

Bible passage	Condition for a "Yes" Answer
I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. <i>Matthew 17:20b</i>	
Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <i>Mark 11:24</i>	
When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. <i>Mark 11:25</i>	
I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <i>John 14:13</i>	
If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. <i>John 15:7</i>	
You do not have because you do not ask God. <i>James 4:2b</i>	
When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. <i>James 4:3</i>	
This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him. <i>1 John 5:14-15</i>	

