

When You Pray: Answer Me
Pastor Johnson Bowie
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Psalm 22:1-2 NIV

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

God has 3 answers to our prayers: **YES**, **NO**, and **WAIT**.

Isaiah 49:14-16 TPT

But Zion has said, “Yahweh has forsaken me. My Lord has forgotten me—I’m all alone.” Yahweh responds, “But how could a loving mother forget her nursing child and not deeply love the one she bore? Even if there is a mother who forgets her child, I could never, no never, forget you. Can’t you see? I have carved your name on the palms of my hands!”

“Every difficulty in prayer comes from one fatal flaw: that of praying as if God were absent.” — *St. Teresa of Avila*

Exodus 3:7-8 NIV

The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them CRYING out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them...”

God Answers the CRY of Our Heart:
Clean Heart

1 John 3:22 NLT

We will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

Unanswered prayer begins with the ASSUMPTION that just because I ask for it, God is obligated to give it to me.

1 Peter 3:7 NLT

You husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

Why should God listen to my words if I don't obey His?

God Answers the CRY of Our Heart:

Clean Heart

Reliant Heart

James 4:2 NIV

You do not have, because you do not ask God.

“The greatest tragedy in life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.” — *F. B. Meyer*

James 4:2-3 NIV

You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

I have to want the GLORY of the GIVER more than I want the GOODNESS of the GIFT.

James 1:6-7 NIV

When you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

God Answers the CRY of Our Heart:

Clean Heart

Reliant Heart

Yielded Heart

Matthew 26:37-39 MSG

Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me." Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?"

Matthew 26:42 MSG

Again he prayed, "My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I'm ready. Do it your way."

I trust Your heart even when I can't see Your hand.

Matthew 27:46 NIV

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lemasabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

Psalms 22 NIV

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him" ... Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet ... They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me ... You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told

about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!