

Why Didn't God Answer My Prayer?

Opening Questions:

What is something you remember asking for as a kid either for your birthday or as a Christmas present that you never received?

Have you ever had an experience of calling somewhere for something you needed and not being able to reach anyone? What's one that stands out?

Read Psalm 13.

- What is David's chief complaint?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you have felt what David is experiencing here? When?
- An unanswered prayer can affect us in many ways. What are some of these ways?
- Where in this psalm do you see King David giving voice to how it has affected him?

The author Paul Miller in his book, [A Prayer Life](#), describes "defeated weariness" as the standing on the edge of cynicism. They both, he says, "question the active goodness of God on our behalf. Left unchallenged, their low-level doubt opens the door for bigger doubt. They've lost their childlike spirit and are thus unable to move toward their heavenly Father."

- Based on this psalm, where do you suppose King David is: defeated weariness, or cynicism?
- Where have you been in some of your hardest moments of unanswered prayer?

Read Psalm 13:5-6

- What changes in David's prayer?
- What, as far as you can tell from the context of psalm, is the main reason for this change?

In the message, Pastor Silverio shared a number of biblically inspired answers for the intellectual problems of answered prayer (See Pete Greig's [God On Mute](#) for further exploration). **God's World:** 1. Common sense based on how God has ordered the world 2. They contradict other prayers. 3. The "fallen" state of creation. 4. Free Will. **God's Will:** 5. God has something different or better. 6. God's timing. 7. God is using this circumstance to draw us closer. 8. God's will is "no."

- Can you think of any others?
- Do you find any of these answers especially challenging in light of your own situation?

Application:

Paul Miller talks about the space between our hope and our reality as the "desert" that people of faith find themselves living in. The desert is hard, but Scripture gives us plenty of examples of God showing up and giving his people everything they need to endure.

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10. How does this passage help shape our prayer in the "desert"?
- Are there any other passages that we can use to pray through here in the "desert"?

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.

Guided prayer: God, may the reality of the resurrection of Jesus transform our hearts and minds today. As we commit to following you, even when we feel you haven't answered our prayer, give us eyes to see you, give us ears to hear you, and give us hearts that won't stop believing you, in whatever earthly circumstance you should have us live. Amen.