

Popular Reasons for Unanswered Prayer (with verses)

1. You have secret sin – *Lam 3:44; Psalm 66:18, 90:8; 1 Peter 3:12*
2. You are not tithing – *Malachi 3:10*
3. You are not fasting – *Mark 9:29*
4. You are not asking in faith, *believing* – *James 1:6; Mark 11:24*
5. You are not reading the Bible regularly – *Romans 10:17*
6. You are not in fellowship with God – *John 15:7*
7. You pray after your own lust – *James 4:3*
8. You do not pray with spiritual authority in Jesus’ name – *John 14:13-14*
9. You are not praying loud enough: don’t whisper, speak audibly – *Matthew 16:19*
10. You are too greedy: be more thankful – *Philippians 4:6*
11. You don’t ask – *James 4:2*
12. Your prayers are not big enough, don’t be petty – *Mark 11:23*
13. Your prayers are too vague, be specific – *Matthew 7:9-10, 21:22*
14. You presume God will answer your prayer your way – *Isaiah 55:8*
15. You are not praying in accordance with God’s will – *1 John 5:14*
16. You are impatient: it will be answered in God’s time – *Matthew 6:7-8*
17. You are not persistent, pray until it is answered – *1 Thessalonians 5:17*
18. Your prayer is already answered, you just don’t know it yet - *Daniel 10:12-13*
19. Your prayers are too long – *Matthew 23:14*
20. You don’t spend enough time in prayer – *Luke 6:12*
21. You doubt and harbor unbelief – *Mark 9:23; 1 Timothy 2:8*
22. You are not helping God answer the prayer - *2 Thessalonians 3:10*
23. You are not praying the right way (prayer formula) – *Luke 11:1*
24. You are holding a grudge with someone else: forgive – *Matthew 5:23-24*
25. You do not have the proper environment to focus – *Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35*
26. You’ve rejected God’s counsel - *1 John 3:22*
27. You are not praying in the spirit – *1 Corinthians 14:15; Jude 20*
28. You need to pray in agreement with another – *Matthew 18:19-20*
29. Your prayers are too public; pray in secret – *Matthew 6:6*
30. God did answer; his answer was ‘No’. – *2 Corinthians 12:9*

**“The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.”
- Billy Graham**

Notice most of the reasons start with ‘You’. When the prayer promises were given to Israel it was with covenantal strings attached. If they behaved, then God would bless them (and answer their prayer). Today Christians are not under the Old or the New Covenant and so prayers are not restricted because we broke a covenant or behaved badly. Neither is God obligated to answer our requests because of good behavior.

Prayer is not a way to manipulate God; it is a way to speak to him. We pray not because he answers *every* request but because he *can do abundantly above* what we request (Eph 3:20).

Pray without ceasing. Always rejoice in the Lord!