

**SUMMER at GRACEWOOD - 6**  
**“Why Didn’t God Answer My Prayer?”**  
**August 6, 2023**

**WHAT MATTERS TO GOD WHEN YOU PRAY?**

**1. YOUR RELATIONSHIPS MATTER.**

Mark 11:24-25 “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” (NIV)

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (NIV)

**2. YOUR MOTIVES MATTER.**

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives... (NIV)

Proverbs 16:2 All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD. (NIV)

**3. THE WAY YOU LIVE MATTERS.**

James 5:16b ...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (NIV)

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. (NIV)

**4. YOUR FAITH MATTERS.**

James 1:6-7 But 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. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. (NIV)

Matthew 9:29-30 Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; 30 and their sight was restored. (NIV)

**5. GOD’S WILL MATTERS.**

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. (NIV)

Luke 22:42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (NIV)

**WHAT MATTERS MOST?**

- **YOU MUST HAVE AN HONEST RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST.**

John 9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. (NIV)