

When Faith Isn't Fun: Unanswered Prayer

February 22, 2026

PRESSING IN TO UNANSWERED PRAYER

1. GIVE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT TO JESUS

a. Jesus Gets It

- *Luke 22:42-44. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*

b. Jesus Can Handle It

- *1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

2. REHEARSE GOD'S CHARACTER & PROMISES

a. God Is Our Perfect Father

- *Matthew 7:9-11. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

b. He Always Answers His Children

- *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. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

3. CHECK YOUR MOTIVES & MISSION

a. Motives Aligned?

- *James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

b. Mission In Mind?

- *2 Corinthians 12:7-9. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

4. KEEP PRAYING!

a. The Holy Spirit & Jesus Will Pray With You

- *Romans 8:26-27; 34. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ... Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us*

b. Persistence Pays

5. *Luke 18:1-8. Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!' "And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*