

“No More Prayers Bouncing off the Ceiling”

John 16:16-24

For God So Loved the World – John, Part 2

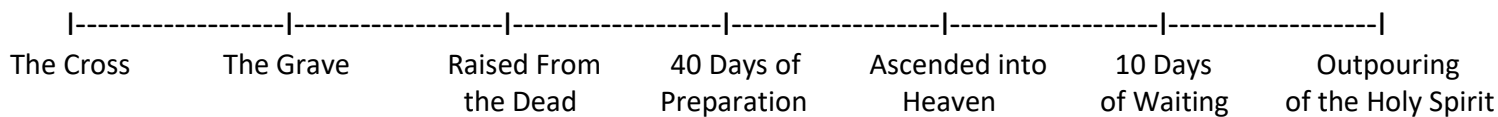
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Everyone can relate to... wondering if _____ works. Whether God answers prayer or... Is He even listening? (Psa 13:1)

- When you were a teenager. Or going through that tough season. Or when you just don't feel His presence anymore.
- Not having a vibrant prayer life = lack of direction/purpose, anxiety, being more open to temptation, no peace/joy...

Let's get into our main passage, John 16:16-24, because as a follower of Jesus, you _____ a vibrant prayer life!



- **VV 20-22...** The analogy of a woman giving birth is fitting for what the disciples are about to _____.

VV 23-24 directly pertain to _____. *In the Church Age, we have direct access to the Father. (Jn 14:6)*

- Really? *Well, when you ask _____, you just know that the Father would be pleased to answer.*
 - These are requests made in accordance with the Father's will. (Jas 4:1-4; 1 Jn 5:14-15 → Rom 8:28)

“This is interesting, but I want a vibrant prayer life, so help.” *4 reasons why your prayers be “bouncing off the ceiling.”*

1. Not _____ - “He rewards those who, in faith, earnestly seek Him!” – Heb 11:6
2. Not saying that you're _____ – “If I cherish sin in my heart, the Lord won't listen.” – Psa 66:18
3. Not doing what _____ God – “We'll receive what we ask if we obey and do what He wants.” – 1 Jn 3:22
4. Not _____ others – “Forgive others so that your Father in heaven will forgive you.” – Mk 11:25-26

LET'S PRAY. “Father, regarding item #(s) _____ above, I confess that I need help! Your Word teaches in Hebrews 4 that in Jesus' name I can come before Your throne of grace and receive help in time of need. Well, I'm doing that right now. I'm receiving help from You because I desire to be in right standing before You. So, I am going to do the following:
 _____ *Thank You Lord, that from Your perspective, it is already finished!”*

TURN OVER FOR WHAT CAN NOW BE A REALITY IN YOUR LIFE... AND THE GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS

What now can be a reality in your life: *No more “prayers bouncing off the ceiling.”*

1. God Hears and Listens to Our Prayers. *Comfort comes in knowing that God listens attentively. - Psa 34:7*
2. The Holy Spirit Helps Us in Prayer. *When we struggle, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. – Rom 8:26*
3. God Gives Us Peace Through Prayer. *Peace surpassing understanding is a comfort in times of anxiety. – Phil 4:6-7*

Finally... How would your life change for the better by determining to pray all the time and at a designated time?

- PRAY ALL THE TIME! 1 Thes 5:17 – Having an attitude of God-consciousness. *Being aware that God is present and involved in your thoughts and actions... Turning negative thoughts into prayers into thanksgivings... Putting everything in God's hands and being prayerful about everything.*
- PRAY AT A DESIGNATED TIME! Matt 6:6 – 1) Determine what time of the day works best. Morning? Evening? 2) Make it a special time to meet with God. Turn off all mobile devices. 3) Take notes or a prayer journal. 4) Bring your Bible. *If you're not sure what to read, read the chapter in Proverbs that corresponds to the day of the month.*



How to Pray in 3 Easy Steps

Thank God for who He is

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

Tell God how you feel

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Ask God for his guidance

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. John 16:13

flourishing today

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS FOR “NO MORE PRAYERS BOUNCING OFF THE CEILING” – 07/14/24

Go through this note sheet and discuss with your growth group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and/or school mates. Bring this note sheet to your work and discuss it with your workmate over lunch. Bring it to school and discuss it with your schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses on the other side of this note sheet. Pray with one another.

1. Do you remember a time when you doubted whether God answered prayer? Or whether he was even listening? This is understandable, of course. Also, this is beneficial because it provides an opportunity to learn some amazing things. Be encouraged to share that experience with the group and also what you learned and how you grew as a result.
2. Out of the four reasons why your prayer could be bouncing off the ceiling, which one can you relate to the most and why?
3. The Bible commands us to pray all the time and at a designated time. How are you doing in both regards?