

## TAKE HOME SHEET



**Series:** The Conversationalist  
**Message:** Can I Trust God?  
**Speaker:** Rusty Coram  
**Date:** January 22, 2023

For our application of the message, let's explore the nature of prayer that isn't immediately answered. Think about your current praying in light of the following:

**God will hold off answering my prayer when:**

**The request isn't right.**

We may feel strongly about what should happen or what we want, but we need to remember we follow God – not the other way around. If we are asking for something that goes against what He knows is best, the answer will be “no”. Our primary resource to determine this is what the Bible says. If I ask for anything that goes against clear Biblical teaching the answer is always “no”. There are also times when we are told “no” because God has a purpose that needs to be fulfilled. An example of this is when Jesus prays immediately before His arrest and execution:

*<sup>41</sup> He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>“Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*

Luke 22:41–42 (NLT)

Does what I am praying for align with God's character and purposes? How do I know?

**I am not right.**

Am I disobeying God in an ongoing way? Am I neglecting to follow something He has already told me to do? An easy diagnostic here is to examine my *Giving* (financial faithfulness) and my *Forgiving* (relational faithfulness). Look at Isaiah 59:2, Malachi 3:8, Matthew 5:23-24, and James 4:3.

**The timing isn't right.**

I may be asking for something good and God-approved, but it's not the right time. God knows best and is never early or late! The story of John the Baptist's birth is a great example. Read Luke 1:5-17.

**Take some time now and pray with these ideas in mind.**

**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:**

NLT – New Living Translation

## MESSAGE NOTES



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<sup>1</sup> One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. <sup>2</sup> “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. <sup>3</sup> A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ <sup>4</sup> The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’”

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. <sup>7</sup> Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”  
Luke 18:1–8 (NLT)

**Jesus gives us the point of the story in verse one, “that [we] should always pray and never give up”.**

**Prayer is more than a transaction; it is a connection with God.**

**Effective prayer is dependent on two things:**

### **1. The character of God.**

*Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

### **2. The condition of our heart.**

*<sup>18</sup> If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. <sup>19</sup> But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. <sup>20</sup> Praise God, who did not ignore my prayer or withdraw his unfailing love from me.*

Psalm 66:18–20 (NLT)

**God will hold off answering my prayer when:**

**The request isn’t right.**

**I am not right.**

**The timing isn’t right.**

**Jesus ends His story with a question:**

*“But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”*

**Faith is a matter of trust that is rooted in truth and tested by time.**