

# Unanswered Prayer

" He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, 'My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.'" Matthew 26:39

## Opening Prayer

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."

Matthew 6:9-13

## Check-In (Share Prayer Experience)

### Video ("Perseverance" from *The Prayer Course*)

1. We sometimes feel that God is not listening...is not answering our prayers. We ask for things and we do not get them, or the event we want to happen does not occur. **Are we assuming that our will is God's will?** In Matthew 26:39, Jesus prays not to experience the torture and crucifixion he knows awaits him. But the father has a different will, and Jesus yields to that will. As he said in his prayer, "May your will be done..." In this segment, we will explore what we call unanswered prayers.

**Tell about a time when you asked God for something in prayer, and you did not receive it. What did you think? How did you react? Did it affect your faith in God?**

2. "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth."

**1 Timothy 2:1-4**

We pray for many things in our world. We pray for cures from diseases, sometimes asking for miracles when the cure seems unlikely. We pray for world peace in an increasingly dangerous and divided world. We pray for justice when often there seems to be little. We pray for happiness in our families and communities when we seem to be at battle with one another. All of these are worthy goals, but often they are not achieved.

**Is God not listening to our prayers? Does God not care about the suffering in the world?**

**Does God always answer our prayers? Are all answers from our Father what we want them to be? Are we sometimes not understanding the answers?**

**Closing Observations**

**Assignment(s): Daily Prayer for Twenty Minutes**

**Practice Leading Prayer**

"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."

**Romans 8:26**

**Sharing Prayer Needs**

**Closing Prayer**

All Bible quotes are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.