

We're back with a devotional and student stories from a Veteran and a female student.



Recently I was having breakfast with a young man who wanted to meet and get my advice. So we met early one morning and after a few minutes of small talk, he said, "I don't know what to do, because I haven't been hearing from God lately. For many months now I keep praying, but I don't sense any response coming from God to my prayers."

Down through years I've heard this concern expressed many times from Christians. I've even had Christians ask me if we should even bother praying? After all, isn't God sovereign and in control of all things? Doesn't His will automatically get done? Doesn't He already know the future? Can our prayers really change anything?

Probably most believers have had times in their life when it seemed like God was absent. That He wasn't listening. You pray prayer after prayer and seemingly there is just no answer. Like this young man, what are we to think when God seems silent? When it seems like God just isn't listening?

And probably most us have had that thought that occasionally creeps into our mind--- Does praying really make any difference at all? Can our prayers really alter the course of events as we pray with sincerity?

Or do we simply pray out of a sense of duty or guilt, but all the time thinking God is going to do whatever He wants anyway? Well, God is sovereign, but He gives us choices. God is sovereign, but He tells us to pray. Somehow, prayer makes a difference.

If prayer didn't matter, God wouldn't ask us to do it. Yet repeatedly in the Bible we're encouraged and, at times, even commanded to pray. And consider this: if God didn't respond to our prayers, then Jesus' teachings on prayer would be useless. The same goes with all that the Apostle Paul taught on prayer.

Now here's the best part. Did you know that God is never unresponsive when it comes to your prayers? He answers every prayer you pray and does so in one of four ways, which we see in scripture. Here they are:

1. **Yes, I thought you'd never ask. James 4:2** "...You do not have because you do not ask." In other words, there are some things God is wanting to say "yes" to in your life; He's just waiting for you to ask! There is a song we sing called "*What a Friend We have in Jesus*" and one line in the song says, "*Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*"
2. **Yes, and here is even more. In 1 Kings 3**, King Solomon asked God to give him wisdom to properly lead God's people. In verse 13 God responds by saying, "*I will give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare to you, all of your days.*" God may take our simple requests and turn them into more than we could imagine.
3. **Yes, but not right now.** Abraham and Sarah wanted a child and God promised they would have one, but it took 25 years! God said "yes", but it needed to be in His perfect timing. We tend to want it now, but God knows best.
4. **No, I love you too much.** This is the one we really don't like, but again God knows what is best for us. Back to James 4, in verse 3 it says, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." Now that is just one reason God might say no—we've asked selfishly. Another example is in **2 Cor. 12:7-9** where Paul has prayed three times that God would take away the thorn in his flesh, but God said no—"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Even in the midst of suffering, God wanted Paul's trust to be in the right place and not in himself.

So, God is answering every prayer that you pray, but doing so His way and in His timing. He makes no mistakes. His answers are perfect and I hope this excites you to pray more knowing that prayer makes a difference and that every prayer is answered! He hears every word and knows every thought.

So please continue to pray for Relgnite Hope, our students and our graduates. We are hoping, virus permitting, to begin the next class on August 4<sup>th</sup>, but with reduced class sizes and all of the social distancing and safety measures in place. Please also keep Relgnite Hope Philadelphia, Brazil and the Philippines in prayer as well as upcoming locations in Las Vegas and Dallas. God continues to be on the move as we all pray and support the work He is doing through the life-changing ministry of Relgnite Hope.

*"God will not allow you to be successful apart from prayer. Because if you could be successful apart from prayer, you'd soon think you could be successful apart from Him."*--  
Unknown

## Student Stories

Life-changing stories from our graduation ceremony

Testimony from a Graduate of our  
**First Military Veteran's Class**



## Not just for Men



Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray that God will give us His perfect wisdom as to when we can safely begin the next class.

I'll keep you all updated and if you would like to contact me I can be reached by email at [steve@reignitehope.com](mailto:steve@reignitehope.com) or by phone at [\(310\) 847-0593](tel:3108470593). Please let me know if there is any way that I can be praying for you during these challenging days in which we are living.

Have a Happy 4th of July.

Love you All,



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