



# NEW CROSSING CHURCH

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**Prayer Series: Upward. Inward. Outward.**

**Study 3: Why Pray If God Doesn't Answer?**

Note: You can listen to or watch the sermon of the same title, Craig Robertson, Jan 30, 2022

**Unanswered Prayers:** Unanswered prayers are those God doesn't answer the way we pray them or he seems to be silent. Yet Jesus promised, "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14:14)

1. What is the prayer that is heavy on your heart that the Lord does not seem to be answering? Are you still seeking him for an answer?

So why should we pray if the Lord isn't answering our prayers?:

**Prayer Strengthens Our Fellowship And Faith In The Lord**

Read **2 Corinthians 12:8-10**

Read **Romans 8:28**

We live in a fallen world that is broken and evil because of sin. Sometimes we blame God when bad things happen because he didn't stop it or work a miracle. God sometimes works supernaturally to intervene but other times he lets things play out naturally. Craig shared a testimony by a recovered alcoholic who prayed God would take away the temptation to drink that he felt everyday of his life. God didn't answer this man's prayer, but it became a blessing to him because he needed to lean on the Lord's strength everyday of his life. Both his fellowship and faith was strengthened in the Lord. We can read about the blessing of unanswered prayers for Paul.

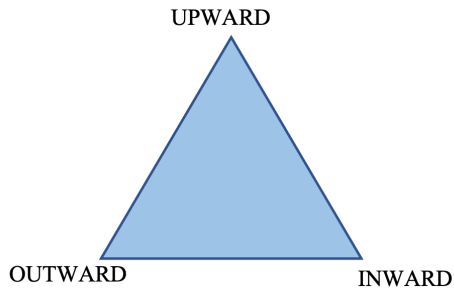
2. Where are you disappointed with God right now? Have you been pressing into prayer and expressing your heart?

3. What good might be coming out of this situation?

**Prayer Brings Glory To The Father As We Surrender To His Will**

Read **John 12:27-28**

Prayers that petition God for our needs are Inward. Prayers that intercede for the needs of others are Outward. These are important prayers but if our prayers only remain on the horizontal plane then we could be using God only as a means to an end. Jesus' own prayers were Upward and sought his Father's glory above his Inward answers.



For us glory is living a divine story WITH Jesus that transforms us and reveals (i.e. manifests) the Father to the world.

Read **John 14:13-14**

4. Jesus did promise to answer our prayers, but what are the criteria and goal of answered prayers? What should we do if we are not getting answers?

### **Prayer Is The Real Battle That Needs To Be Fought**

Read **Mark 14:34-38, Hebrews 5:7, Luke 22:43-44**

There are warfare prayers to take back ground the enemy has taken in the lives of people. They help people get free from the lies and oppression of Satan. They heal the emotional or physical damage done. But for Jesus prayer itself was the real battle, not what followed after when he was arrested and crucified. Jesus role models for us how to pray when his prayers weren't being answered.

5. What was Jesus really asking in his unrelenting prayers? Was the Father giving him an answer?
6. How was Jesus' fellowship and faith strengthened with his Father?
7. Did Jesus not want men and women to be saved? So what was he needing to surrender? How would his Father's will bring more glory than Jesus' will.
8. How did Jesus winning this battle of prayer prepare him to face his enemies?

### **Pray When God Doesn't Answer, Because Jesus Did!**

Take time now to pray as Jesus did with your own unanswered prayers

1. "Abba Father, all things are possible for you"
  - Meet with your Abba Father and find your comfort and strength in his presence.
  - Worship and praise the Lord

2. "Remove this cup from me"
  - Petition and intercede to the Lord now in your prayer
  
3. "Yet not what I will, but what you will"
  - Surrender to the Lord's will and seek his glory regardless of how he answers your prayer. Tell the Lord that you trust him and know that his will is good, acceptable, and perfect (Romans 12:2).