

Why? | Part 3

Lesson 9

Matthew 7:7-11; Mark 11:22-24; Acts 4:23-31;

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

January 21, 2024

Why Didn't God Answer My Prayer?

INTRODUCTION

This year our congregation lost a valued member to cancer. This young man battled this horrible disease with all his strength. He encouraged his church family to pray for not only his healing, but also for his strength and the strength of his family. And, his church family did pray continually for his healing, pain, and victory over this disease.

Those prayers, however, were not answered as we had asked. He lost his battle with cancer, and his biological family and church family were crushed. But that was not the end of the story. At his memorial service, just like in our scriptures this week, we saw the GRACE and the GLORY of God in every testimonial spoke by believers and non-believers alike. God had used this young man throughout his 45 years of life and his afflictions to minister the power and grace of Christ to everyone he had contact with. His story and the stories we will study this week will hopefully reveal to you there is no such thing as unanswered prayer.

Memory verse: "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."
—2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

3. The story of Lazarus gives us a vision into the reasons God does not always answer our prayers in the way or timing we want. Why didn't Jesus immediately go to Lazarus? (John 11:4-7, 14-15, 40)

4. How did witnessing the glory of God affect Lazarus, Mary, Martha, the Jewish people, and the Pharisees? (John 11:1-53)

