

Remnant Life Church
January 5, 2020
Changing How I View Answers to Prayer
Pt 1
John 14:13-14

This morning we are going to look at one aspect of the theology of prayer and answered prayer

- What does that mean?
- Theology is the study of God, His attributes, and our relationship with Him
 - To talk about the theology of prayer is to look at what it is, what it is for, what the Bible says about it, how we pray, our thoughts and attitudes about prayer, and what it means in our lives
- This morning, and next week, I want us to focus specifically on “answered prayer.”

Most Christians understand that God’s answers prayer in one of three ways: yes, no, wait (or not yet)

- Where many run into difficulties, is when the answer is no
 - Too many are wrongly taught or believe that only the “yes” answer is acceptable
 - When we pray for healing, we want to be healed
 - When we ask for something, we want to get it
 - When we pray for protection from harm or a difficult situation we expect not to have to deal with the problem
 - The error comes in thinking that “yes” is a sign of either your life is in right standing with God or it is a sign of God’s favor
 - Neither of those is true nor biblical (we’ll come back to that in a few minutes)

First, why would God answer “no” to our prayer?

- Those who struggle the most will refer to several passages
 - **Matt 17:20** - *...truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*
 - **Jer 29:11** - *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
 - **John 14:13-14** - *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*
- It is this last one that gets the most people hung up
 - So what exactly does this verse mean?
 - Context
 - Jesus is sitting with His disciples, and they are having the evening meal just before the time of Passover (**John 13:1**)
 - He has just washed the disciple’s feet as a sign of humility and serving others
 - He is now teaching them, yet again, the truth of who He is
 - He is the only way to the Father (**14:6**)

- *I am in the Father, and the Father is in me (14:11)*
 - And then He says, You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (14:14)
- But, as in all Scripture, you cannot take one segment of a verse and create a meaning apart from the other segments which make up the whole
 - Here is what the entire verse says - *I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*
 - First, whatever you ask in my name
 - To ask something in the name of Jesus means to pray in the same character, heart, and desire of Jesus
 - What was the most important desire of Jesus?
 - To please the Father.
 - What pleases the Father?
 - Obeying and living His Word.
 - You cannot pray anything that is not in full agreement with His Word.
 - Second, so that the Father may be glorified
 - What glorifies the Father?
 - Living according to His Word
 - Loving the people around us
 - Demonstrating, by the actions of our lives who Jesus is
 - Third, He repeats that it must be in His name
 - Anytime Jesus repeats Himself it is not because He lost track of what He was saying
 - It was for emphasis – in other words, This Is Important!!
 - NOTE – Jesus did not say that all prayers would be granted
 - He said prayers made in His name would be granted
 - The test of the prayer is: Can I pray this in the name of Jesus?
 - To do that means nothing can be prayed for personal revenge, personal ambition, or some other aspect of life that is against the Word of God and contrary to the nature of Christ
 - It is the example we are given by Jesus in the Garden just prior to His arrest
 - *Matt 26:39 - My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.*
 - Is your desire for the prayer you pray to be answered only according to the will of God?
 - And then, are you willing to accept that His will is best for you even if the answer is not what you wanted?