

Morning Message Outline

August 25, 2019

“Prayer: 5. Unmet Petitions – Denied or Delayed?” **Matthew 6:31-33, Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 21:21-22**

- I. Introduction: A quick review of obstacles to answered prayer for which we are responsible.

- II. Why are seemingly appropriate requests brought by devoted believers denied?
 - A. Jesus gives us extravagant promises ... but they come with qualifications:
 1. “...whatever you ask in my name”

 2. “If you believe and do not doubt...”

 3. “The Father will give good gifts

 - B. In what spirit are we to pray – unwavering faith that we will get what we ask or provisional faith (“if it be your will”)?

- III. Unmet requests may be delayed answers.
 - A. To test or mature our faith

(continued on back)

B. To give us time to modify our request

C. So that we develop spiritual strengths

IV. The Christian life is a walk of faith in God.

V. There remain good reasons why God may deny requests from devoted Christians.

A. God sees the bigger picture / greater good.

B. God knows the harm it would bring to us.

C. God knows our 'solution' is mistaken.

D. We are not seeking God's kingdom and his righteous goals.

E. Sometimes God alone knows why.

VI. Conclusion: Humbly, reverently trust his wisdom and goodness.