

Why Are My Prayers Unanswered? (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

Introduction: *“The sign in the ‘quick print’ store window...”*

I. THE ‘THORNS’ IN LIFE DRIVE US TO PRAYER

- A. Three times Paul went to God in prayer (vv. 7-8)
- B. Three times God did not answer as Paul wanted
- C. He gave Paul something much greater: **His Grace** (v. 9)
- D. Paul discovered it was the best answer to prayer (v.10)
- E. Please remember God’s 3 answers to our prayers: **yes, no, not yet**

II. PRAYER GIVES US THE LORD’S STRENGTH

- A. “Unanswered prayer” can make us stronger (v.9)
- B. **Christ’s strength** can achieve its purpose in our weakness (vv.9 & 10)
- C. Prayer might not make “things better” BUT can make the best of us
- D. Just look at what happened to St. Paul...

III. PAUL LEARNED (and so can we) THE REAL ANSWER TO PRAYER IS THE PEACE THAT COMES AS WE ABIDE IN JESUS

- A. Paul experienced anew: Christ’s presence & strength (vv. 9 & 10)
- B. Here are five final truths about prayer
 1. My Lord Jesus Christ knows what is best for me
 2. We can learn a great deal in prayer’s “waiting room”
 3. Be thankful God does not answer all our prayers as we want
 4. Some prayers seem unanswered because we won’t do what God has already directed us to do
 5. There really is no such thing as “unanswered prayer”

Conclusion: *“A mother’s prayer for her son: unanswered?”*