



OCTOBER 2022

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

WHY ARE SOME PRAYERS NOT ANSWERED?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you prayed and prayed, but nothing happened?

The Lord seems to be deaf,
No answer comes,
The heavens are made of stone?

WHY does that happen to us? Why is it, that sometimes the Lord answers gloriously and abundantly, and at other times he seems to turn a deaf ear? Why are some prayers answered, while others are not? Why doesn't God always give us what we ask for? What should we do when our prayers are not answered?

WHY are some prayers not answered? The FIRST reason found in MARK 11:25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that you father in heaven may also forgive you" Do you see what Jesus teaches? We cannot pray with bitterness and unforgiveness in our hearts and expect God to answer our prayers.

In other words, prayer does not work AUTOMATICALLY! There are conditions which must be met FIRST. The Bible says we need a CLEAN heart, a FORGIVING spirit, an attitude of FAITH, and our prayer must be in the NAME of Jesus. In the name of Jesus doesn't mean to add "In Jesus name. Amen." at the end, but to pray for the things that Jesus could add his name to, that Jesus would say amen. The simplest way to explain this, is that sometimes we do not get what we ask for because there is something in our lives which needs to be taken care of first, BEFORE God will answer. In ISAIAH 59:1-2 we read "The Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear heavy that it cannot hear, but your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden his face from you so that He will not hear."

Years ago I had a friend with a cabin in the mountains. One time he went to his cabin and could not get any hot water. He checked everything and finally called a plumber who found a mouse in the pipes. This is the FIRST reason our prayers are not answered; we have mice in the pipes. If we want our prayers answered we need to get the mice out of the pipes which connect to God.

The SECOND reason is found in JAMES 4:3, J.B. Phillips translates this, "You don't get what you want because you don't ask God for it. And when you do ask, he doesn't give it to you for you ask in quite the wrong spirit, you only want to satisfy your own desires...." Sometimes God does answer, but God doesn't give the answer we desire, so we complain that He hasn't answered....Parents will understand this. What would happen to our children if we gave them everything they asked for?

Mommy, give me some candy,
Mommy, give me a pony,
Mommy, give me a baby elephant,
Daddy, give me a jet ski....

Pastor Warren Wiersbe tells how becoming a parent helped his understanding of prayer."I discovered that children usually want their father's help when they need something, or are in trouble. But they are seldom interested in the areas where he can give them the most help. grow in facing and solving problems and discover my potential...It came as a shock that my devout prayer requests were actually hindering me from God's best. I was praying about things and emergencies, when God wanted to use these experiences to develop Christian character. He didn't want me to be a spoiled brat any more than I wanted my children to be spoiled brats."

This is the SECOND reason why some prayers are not answered. It is because God is a good father, and is too loving, too wise and too good to give us everything that we ask for. I once heard someone say, "I have lived long enough to thank God that all of my prayers have not been answered."

A THIRD reason is found in LUKE 18: This is the story of the crooked judge who finally gave a poor widow justice because he got tired of dealing with her. Jesus comment on this story is that it shows that we ought always to pray and not lose heart. Do you see the reason are prayers are not answered? Sometimes we give up too soon!

Jesus placed great value on PERSISTENCE in prayer. In my first church there was a woman named Nancy whose husband came with her to worship, and she told me that she had prayed for him for twenty-seven years before he became a Christian. In the summer of 1964 I was serving as a student pastor here at First Moravian. Elizabeth Deardorf had been my Sunday School teacher in fifth and sixth grade. One Sunday after church she said to me, "Stevie, I've been praying for my husband David for many years but he will not listen when I try to talk to him about the Lord. You are a young man. Maybe he would listen to you. Would you come to our home and talk to David?" I doubted that David would listen to a twenty-two year old but I liked Mrs. Deardorf and promised I would talk to David. The next evening I stopped at the Deardorf's and to my surprise, David and I talked, argued, and reasoned about the Lord for over two hours. David was not ready to put his faith in the Lord, but when I left he asked me to return and discuss the matter with him again. The next afternoon I got an anxious call from Mrs. Deardorf. She told me when she came home from work she found David lying on the floor trying to talk. When she bent over to listen, she discovered he was trying to pray the Lord's prayer, the only prayer he knew. He died there on the floor. But, Elizabeth and I were convinced he died as a believer and that her prayers had finally been answered.

As I look back, I can truthfully say that MOST of my prayers have been answered, but it takes TIME.... If God intends to answer, why does God make us wait? He makes us wait to HONOR the freedom of others. Perhaps it took 27 years for Nancy's husband to decide to put his faith in Christ.... I believe the Lord also makes us wait to give us an opportunity to grow in our own faith and patience. "Lord, please give me patience, and do it RIGHT NOW!"

Steve, what should we do when we don't get answers? Brothers and sisters, you and I need to remember the great purpose of prayer? What is it? What is the great purpose of prayer? The GREAT PURPOSE of prayer is not to get THINGS from God, but to get God himself! The most wonderful news in the whole Bible is that the great God who made the heaven of heavens wants to have fellowship with ordinary people like you and me. This is the reason why God has come down to us in Jesus! So that you and I might see God and know God, and love God, and follow God.... This is captured beautifully for us in the words of the hymn:

"My God how wonderful thou art, Thy majesty how bright,
How beautiful Thy mercy seat, in depths of burning light.

How wonderful, how beautiful, the sight of Thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power, and awful purity.

`Yet I may love Thee, too, O Lord, Almighty as Thou art,
For Thou hast stooped to ask of me, the love of my poor heart."

The great TRAGEDY of our lives is that so often we settle for much less from God. We treat God like a giant vending machine in the sky, instead of like a real person....

So many times you and are like children who get a gift, and play with the wrapping paper....

Catherine Marshall in her book, "Something More" tells of a time in her life when she was confined to bed for a year and one half with a mysterious illness no doctor could diagnose, much less offer a cure. She prayed ceaselessly. She pounded on the doors of heaven. She confessed her sins. She bargained with God. She made promises about what she would do if the Lord healed her. All to no avail. Finally, in resignation, she prayed, "Lord, I'm so tired of pleading and pleading. I don't care if you never heal me. I just want to know that you are there and that you haven't abandoned me..." And as she prayed that prayer, she began to get well. Looking back on that awful time, she concluded, "At last, I wanted the giver more than gifts...."

Why are some prayers not answered? Why doesn't God give us what we ask for?

Brothers and sisters, sometimes God doesn't give us answers, but God gives us Himself. And when we have God, that is enough!

"Yet I may love Thee, too, O Lord, Almighty as Thou art,
For Thou hast stooped to ask of me, the love of my poor heart."

Rev. Steve Nicholas

SEEKING A NEW PASTOR

For the past several months, the Joint Boards at First Moravian and Covenant Moravian meeting together have been considering an experienced and qualified pastor to lead both congregation. After several in person meetings and considerable dialogue neither of the Joint Boards were able to reach a consensus to move forward with the candidate and felt it was necessary to continue the search. A number of our board members felt that this candidate did not seem like the right pastor for our two congregations. Our board members feel it is more responsible to continue searching for a pastor rather than call a pastor who may not be a good fit for our congregations. With guidance from the Eastern District Board and their President, the Rev. Melissa Johnson, we will continue to look for a pastor who we feel the Lord is calling to serve and lead us. We very much need our members to continue to pray that the Lord will send us the pastor of the Lord's choosing.



Trustee News

The Trustees met September 14th. The repairs and updates for the parsonage were discussed. Improvements and needed updates for the annex and church were also discussed and added to the work list.

Elders News

The Elder's met via Zoom on September 12th. Worship was reviewed. It was decided to continue offering and communion as is until a new Pastor arrives. Congregational needs were also discussed for the upcoming month.

Upcoming Pastors

October 2 - Terry Folk
October 9 - Richard Godfrey
October 16 - TBD
October 23 - Cliff Bergstresser
October 30 - Terry Folk

Total Income & Offerings from Sundays 09/04/2022 to 09/25/2022:

General	\$4,733.00
Refurbishing	\$166.00
Parking	\$50.00

TOTAL	\$4,949.00
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Did you know...

We have an online giving portal! If you prefer to catch the service via Zoom you can send your offering online! Just go to

- mmfa.info
- click Giving Portal at the top
- Click 'F' and select First Moravian Church - York, PA

If you prefer to mail your offering you can send it direct to:

Wanda Hendricks
3715 Fox Chase Drive
Dover, PA 17315

October Birthdays

3 Jane Kerchner*
6 Lindsey Messersmith
9 Stephanie Bish
Kody Neil*
11 Mary Wurzbach
24 Betsy Senft
Terri Zeigler

October Anniversaries

3 Jane Kerchner*
6 Lindsey Messersmith
9 Stephanie Bish
Kody Neil*
11 Mary Wurzbach
24 Betsy Senft
Terri Zeigler



For pastoral care until
our new Pastor is received,
please feel free to call any of the
3 elders listed below.

Jeannette Sprenkle 717-225-4304

John Knokey 717-848-9220

Steve Nicholas 717- 755-7412

***Please do not call Steve
on a Monday***

Prayer Concerns

Amy Ardison (Betsy Senft's sister)
Pastor Jeff Coppage
Ann Coppage
Don Eckert
Mary Jones
Kathie Nicholas
Karrie Rishel
Cliff & Elaine Rowell
Ruth & Clair Seiple
Jemon Grant

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2022 Watchword

“Happy is the one who trusts in you, O lord of hosts.”

Psalm 84:12