

---

## SERMON OUTLINE

---

### The Importance of Unanswered Prayer

Part 3 – Connected to God series

- I. **God's goal** – God may not answer so that he can change our heart (James 4:2-10).
  - Some prayers are unanswered because of selfishness and sin (4:2-3; 1 Samuel 31:6-7; Isaiah 58:4; Jeremiah 11:10-11; 1 Peter 3:7).
  - God exposes my selfish requests in order to draw me from the world to Himself (4:4-5).
  - God gives us grace as we humbly repent (4:5-10).
- II. **God's best** – God may not answer because He wants to change what we want (2 Corinthians 12:2-10).
  - God may say no to protect us from spiritual dangers such as pride (12:7-9).
  - God enables us to experience his power and presence instead of answering some prayers (12:9-10).
- III. **God's timing** – As we must wait for some answers God grows our faith and draws us close (Psalm 42).
  - God uses persistent prayer to grow our faith (42:1-7; Romans 4:18-21).
  - God uses persistent prayer about unsolved problems to draw us close to Him (42:8-11).
- IV. **Trusting God** – God works for our good when we pray even though we don't know what to pray (Romans 8:26-28).
  - The Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know what to pray (8:26-27).
  - We can trust God to answer in a way that works out for our best if we truly love Him (8:28).