

After The Answer v2

What happens to our faith after we receive God's answer to our prayers?

Introduction

- Prayer should be a continual part of our Christian life
- We should pray having no doubt that God can answer our prayers
- But at times, God does not always answer as we have asked
- What happens to our faith after the answer especially if it is not what we had requested

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Introduction

- Do we become weak in faith and less prayerful even being embittered against God?
- Or, do we have faith in God rather than in our requests both before and after the answer?
- False teaching – God is bound to answer as we ask as long as we believe we have received what we ask

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Is God Obligated To Answer If We Believe We Receive?

Mar 11:22 And Jesus *answered saying to them, "Have faith in God.

Mar 11:23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

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Is God Obligated To Answer If We Believe We Receive?

Mar 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

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After The Answer v2 Three Prayers Examined

1. What was requested?
2. Before the prayer, had God revealed anything about how He would answer?
3. How did God answer the prayer?
4. How did the one praying respond to God after the answer?

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David Prays For His Son To Be Healed

2Sa 12:16 David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.

2Sa 12:17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them.

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God Had Told David His Son Would Die

2Sa 12:9 'Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

2Sa 12:10 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

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God Had Told David His Son Would Die

2Sa 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

2Sa 12:14 "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

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God Had Told David His Son Would Die

2Sa 12:15 So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick.

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God Answers David's Prayer – The Child Dies

2Sa 12:18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was *still* alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do *himself* harm!"

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God Answers David's Prayer – The Child Dies

2Sa 12:19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

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After The Answer David Continued To Serve God

2Sa 12:20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.

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After The Answer David Continued To Serve God

2Sa 12:21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

2Sa 12:22 He said, "While the child was *still* alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'

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After The Answer David Continued To Serve God

2Sa 12:23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

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Hezekiah Prays To Be Healed

2Ki 20:1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

2Ki 20:2 Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,

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Hezekiah Prays To Be Healed

2Ki 20:3 "Remember now, O LORD, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

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God Had Told Hezekiah He Would Die

2Ki 20:1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

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God Answers Hezekiah's Prayer – He Will Live For 15 Years

2Ki 20:4 Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

2Ki 20:5 "Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD.

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God Answers Hezekiah's Prayer – He Will Live For 15 Years

2Ki 20:6 "I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

2Ki 20:7 Then Isaiah said, "Take a cake of figs." And they took and laid *it* on the boil, and he recovered.

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After The Answer Hezekiah Continued To Serve The Lord But Stumbled In His Pride

2Ki 20:12 At that time Berodach-baladan a son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

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After The Answer Hezekiah Continued To Serve The Lord But Stumbled In His Pride

2Ki 20:13 Hezekiah listened to them, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and the house of his armor and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

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After The Answer Hezekiah Continued To Serve The Lord But Stumbled In His Pride

2Ki 20:16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD.

2Ki 20:17 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

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Paul Prays That His Thorn In The Flesh Be Removed

2Co 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

2Co 12:8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

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What Had God Told Paul About How He Would Answer His Prayer?

2Co 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

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God Answers Paul's Prayer – The Thorn Stays But God Gives Grace To Strengthen
2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

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After The Answer Paul Continues To Serve The Lord

2Co 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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We Should Frequently and Thankfully Bring Our Requests To God

Mat 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

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We Should Seek To Make Our Requests In Harmony With His Will

Jas 4:2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

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We Should Seek To Make Our Requests In Harmony With His Will

1Jn 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1Jn 5:15 And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Mar 11:25 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

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We Should Trust and Serve God Both Before and After The Answer

Dan 3:17 "If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

Dan 3:18 "But *even* if *He does* not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."