

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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## Why Hasn't God Answered My Prayers?

Do you ever feel like God isn't answering your prayers? It might feel like God is ignoring you when He doesn't answer your prayers the way you're hoping. But Scripture offers us insights as to why God might appear to be silent. One verse that I've found most helpful in my own life – when it comes to unanswered prayer – is Psalm 84:11, in which the Psalmist said “No good thing will [God] withhold from those who walk uprightly.” I find three principles (and loads of encouragement) in this verse for why God might not be answering my prayer or yours.

### 1. God's idea of a “good thing” might be different than yours.

You might be praying for a husband, a job you've been hoping for, or to win the lottery. Why would God not give you any or all of the three? Because even though you might feel it's good for you to be married, or to be working in a job you like, or to have more money, God's opinion might differ. Just because something makes us happy doesn't mean it's good for us, eternally. And God has our eternal best in mind.

### 2. God is waiting for you to be obedient.

Scripture exhorts husbands to be considerate of their wives and treat them with respect so that their prayers aren't hindered (1 Peter 3:7). And Psalm 84:11 says “no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” Are you walking uprightly? Is your life not only obedient, but surrendered to Him? If not, God may be withholding or refusing to acknowledge your prayers to get you back into line with His will and purposes.

### 3. It isn't the right time.

God has three answers. Yes, no, and wait. Because He can see what's eternally best for us, and He can also see what's coming down the road (and we can't), trust His judgment. Don't second-guess Him. His timing is always better than yours. If you are walking uprightly and what you're asking for is truly a good thing then, according to Psalm 84:11, God is not withholding after all. It just isn't time.

### 4. You aren't asking in faith.

How we pray is just as important as what we pray for. In James 1:5-8 we are told: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”

So ask in faith and without hesitation or doubting. God may be waiting for you to truly believe He can do what you are asking for.

## KEY VERSE

I John 5:14 (NKJV)

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: I John 5:14-15; Psalm 84:11-12**

### Introduction

1. Has there been a time in your life when you have felt like God was not answering your prayers? The article on the cover of this guide suggests some possible reasons. Which, if any, may apply to your situation?
2. What promises do you see in today's scripture reading? How can you have confidence in your prayer life?

**Tuesday: Matthew 26:36-42; James 4:3**

### God Says No

3. Has there been a time in your life where God answered "No" to your prayer request? How did you deal with the disappointment?
4. How can we have the attitude that Jesus displayed in His prayer in Matthew 26:42? How can you trust God's will for your life?

**Wednesday: Psalm 37: 3-7; Isaiah 55:8-9**

### God Says Slow

5. How do you feel when God tells you to wait?
6. Psalm 37:3-7 describes how to actively wait upon God. List some action words from this passage. How can you trust and delight in Him while you wait for His timing?

**Thursday: Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; I Peter 3:7**

### God Says Grow

7. Describe a time in your life where sin hindered the effectiveness of your prayers.

8. I Peter 3:7 draws a correlation between the way a husband treats his wife and his prayers being hindered. Are there issues in your marriage or other relationships that could be hindering your prayers?

9. Are you willing to pray the way David prayed in Psalm 139:23-24?:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me, and know my anxieties;  
And see if there is any wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting."

If so, what if anything has God revealed to you?

**Friday: Ephesians 3:20-21; Matthew 7:7-11; Jeremiah 33:3**

### God Says Go

10. Describe a time in your life when God answered your prayer.

11. Has there been a time when God answered your prayers in a way that was better than you thought or imagined? List ways that has God been a loving Father to you.