

When you pray, do you believe God answers?

Well, I went for my early morning run the other day. I wish I could tell you that it was easy, that it was enjoyable, that my body screamed at me to keep going.

It didn't — instead it was quite the opposite. I have never seen a bear in these parts, but I am convinced one jumped on my back about half way through that little scamper down the country road.

I don't know if you are like me, but why is something that is supposed to be so good for you so painful? Anyway, to help take away some of the pain, I either have music going on the iPod or a message from some preacher. Either way, it drowns out my gasping for air.

The other morning it was a message I was listening to, and it was good. The guy was talking about faith. Faith comes by hearing, it is a seed that grows and it can do the



steve rains

● moments from calvary

impossible. It was good stuff, but it made me think about prayer, so I want to take time to write about the challenging topic of prayer.

A young girl wrote a missionary and wanted to let him know that she and her Sunday School class were praying for him. It appeared that she had been told not to request a response from the missionary because they are busy. The missionary got a laugh out of the letter he received. It read, "Dear Missionary. We are praying for you, but we are not expecting an answer."

That little girl summarized the prayer lives of many people. Obviously, prayer in its simplest definition is talking with God. That involves relationship, so you and I must be in relationship with Him.

However, I wonder how often we are guilty of praying without expecting an answer. I like what David said, "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications." (Psalm 116:1)

How do we really know that our prayers are answered? Sure, there are times when we see visible results. We may pray for someone who's sick and we see them recover.

Don't tell me God doesn't do miracles today; I have seen them

with my own eyes! But there are times (and sometimes it feels more often than not) that our prayers don't produce flashing "neon" answers. What do you do when that happens? How do we explain the fact that so many of our prayers seem to go "unanswered"?

The truth is, for a child of God there is no such thing as an unanswered prayer. Maybe you've heard it said before that God answers prayer in three ways. Sometimes, the answer is "yes." Sometimes, the answer is "no." And sometimes, the answer is "wait a while."

We like the "yes" don't we? What about when God says, "No"?

Let me suggest three principles. First, we need to trust God enough to realize that He is all-loving, all-powerful, loves us and has our best interests at heart. So when it seems that God says "no" to our prayers, we must trust

Him enough to understand that there must be a good reason for it.

Secondly, we must not forsake God. Disappointment is a dangerous, powerful thing. If you hear a "no," be careful where you go!

Finally, we need to realize that the answer may not be "no" but only "wait a while."

God always answers our prayers immediately, but sometimes there's a delay in the giving of the answer, and that can be a difficult thing for us to accept.

God is not a divine vending machine — put your prayer quarter in and out pops your blessing! If you think God should answer your prayers in such a way, you will be frustrated and disappointed when God says "no" or "wait."

There needs to be a transformation of our view of prayer. God is great and the Creator of all things that ex-

ists other than Himself. For us to even venture to speak to Him is presumptuous. For us to ask Him to pay attention to our requests and then hope for Him to meet them requires bold expectation. In fact, such would be arrogance if it were not for the simple fact that God tells us to do just that.

That the God of the heavens would listen to us and our needs is a great testimony to His great love for us; and it is that love that will lead Him to say "no" from time to time.

I love how the John put it in 1 John 5:14, "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Friend, pray with expectancy and grow courageously.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Sept. 7, 1994 — Wendy D. Keel, \$140 reinstated for speeding.

Sept. 2, 2002 — Roland R. Wilson, \$137 reinstated for speeding.

Feb. 26, 2004 — Janice C. Brown, \$186 reinstated for speeding. \$10 reinstated for no seat belt, \$60 reinstated for unlawful acts with vehicle and \$60 reinstated for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Sept. 23, 2006 — Sabrina A. Anglada, \$150 reinstated for speeding.

Oct. 22 — Amber Jo Tomnitz, \$42 reinstated for speeding and \$366 for no liability insurance.

Dec. 7 — Edgar H. Astorga-Sotelo, \$160 for speeding and \$60 for no child seat belt.

Dec. 11, 2006 — Steven D. Coddington, \$366 for first conviction driving while suspended, \$60 for unlawful acts with vehicles and dismissed for no liability insurance.

Dec. 15 — Kevin M. Stricklen, \$132 for speeding.

Dec. 16 — Daniel W. Olson, \$132 reinstated for speeding.

Dec. 31, 2006 — Lance A. Siruta, \$76 for driving on closed road and dismissed for no driver's license.

Jan. 2, 2007 — Brent M. Ayers, \$120 for speeding.

Jan. 3 — Ronald W. Mahon, \$126 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Jan. 11 — Amadi K. Chukwuma, \$138 for speeding.

Tanya L. Douglass, \$166 for permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Jan. 13 — Brandon K. Morgan, \$366 for first conviction of driving while suspended and \$60 unlawful acts with vehicle.

Jan. 15 — Ben W. Bohannon, \$165 for improper parking.

Jan. 18 — Mack C. Lewnes, \$291 for speeding.

Jan. 21 — Zachard D. Scott, \$10 for no seat belt.

Jan. 25 — Ashley L. Rodich, \$144 for speeding.

Jan. 26 — Justin R. Freiling, \$174 for speeding.

Feb. 3 — Jesse Sandoval, \$126 for unlawful acts with vehicle and \$60 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Feb. 7 — Benjamin M. Waugh, \$96 for improper parking.

Feb. 13 — Gregory Michel-Scott Jr., \$138 for speeding.

Feb. 14 — Charles M. Seabolt II, \$174 for speeding.

Feb. 15 — Christopher D. Isley, \$150 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Hayden L. Meier, \$138 for speeding.

Emily R. Walz, \$150 for improper parking.

Feb. 16 — Cassie M. Gust, \$114 for speeding.

Marco A. Marchiana, \$165 for speeding.

Feb. 17 — Chad F. Sommer, \$144 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Feb. 18 — Jeremy S. Gertner, \$96 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Joe M. Hoover, \$96 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Richard E. Hull III, \$126 for improper parking.

Mack C. Lewnes, dismissed for no liability insurance.

Tamara B. Sparling, \$156 for speeding.

Feb. 20 — Jose G. Franco, \$144 for speeding.

Adrian R. Vandiemmen, \$114 for speeding.

Feb. 21 — Randall S. Aardema, \$174 for speeding.

Feb. 23 — Tessa L. Balsick, \$126

for speeding.

Benito G. Mayorga, \$146 for un-

lawful use of driver's license.

Tian N. Washington, \$246 for

speeding and \$60 for following an-

other vehicle too closely.

Feb. 25 — Mark A.

Hickenbottom, \$174 for speeding.

Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Small Group Ministries meets throughout the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Diabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 12:30 pm



Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Charles E. Kerr, Jr.
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Team Puppeteers: 6 pm
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm
Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

Word of Life

Joursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m.
(during school year)

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community
for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Michael Estep
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler
Nurseries Available

Kanorado

United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Travis Blake
Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th
890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
9:30 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical

Free Church
104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group
meets at 7 p.m.
at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking
Hwy. 24

Koons Funeral Chapel
North Main

Good Samaritan Center
208 W. 2nd

KLOEIKKQJIKWGB
3023 W. 31

Rural Co-operative Members BEWARE

There are several insurance companies marketing health insurance products to farmers, ranchers, and the self-employed within the state of Kansas. It is in my opinion, with 22 years of experience in the health insurance industry that these companies offer potentially VERY limited health coverage in the even of a major surgery, illness or accident, yet the premiums are usually quite high. Don't wait until you are financially devastated and possibly bankrupt by a catastrophic medical bill and could be left owing tens of thousands of dollars. Please call for a free evaluation of your present health insurance coverage. Most inquires can be addressed via the telephone or email.

You Be The Judge.
Ron Miller

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