

Study Guide

When God Answers No

By Tom Mullenix

God has made it clear – pages 2-7

1. In your opinion, what percentage of Christians feel like they are not worthy to have God regularly answer their prayers, “Yes?”
2. Consider the six warnings God gives us about prayer blockers: Are there any to which you want to respond, “That’s not fair?” Which one(s)? Which ones are easy for you to avoid?
3. The concept of a personal inventory and inviting the Holy Spirit to audit (pages 6 & 7) – Does it encourage you or intimidate you? Explain your answer, please.
4. Examine the encouraging scriptures offered from John 15 and Psalm 107. In your opinion, do they underscore God’s desire to favorably answer prayer? Explain your answer, please.
5. What from this chapter encouraged you?

We should pray in Jesus’ name (pages 8-11)

1. How many Christians, in your opinion, think that “In Jesus’ name, amen” is virtually the same as “10-4” or “Roger, wilco and out?”
2. Does the explanation comparing praying in Jesus’ name with the concept of Power of Attorney make sense to you? In what way?
3. Jesus’ POA: Does this change the shape of our prayers? How?
4. Revisit the line, “Everything is okay, we don’t have any prayer requests.” What is your reaction? What do you think is their concept of prayer? Should Jesus be allowed to submit requests for our prayer lists?
5. What from this chapter encouraged you?

We ought to pray according to God's will (pages 12-18)

1. Is that true? Do we really try to "adjust" God's will to fit our preferences?
2. On page 13 (paragraphs 4 & 5), Tom makes the assertion that merely praying for God's will to be done is a cop-out. Do you agree or disagree with the reasoning offered? Explain your answer, please.
3. Does God know you? (end of page 13 and beginning of page 14) Are you intrigued or frightened by the idea of telling God exactly what is on your mind? Explain, please.
4. Note the list – statements of God's will (footnote # 42) and discussion on pages 14-16. Does this information challenge your thinking about praying according to God's will? In what way?
5. What from this chapter encourages you?

Perseverance in prayer really matters (pages 18-24)

1. Have you ever thought, "If God keeps answering, 'No,' why should I invest any my time and energy to pray? Do you have any friends who have thought that?"
2. What about Jesus' parables concerning perseverance in prayer (Luke 11 & 18) engages your thinking? Why?
3. Agree or Disagree: This is not easy, but Jesus taught us to pray this way and that settles the matter. Explain your answer, please.
4. Which explanation about "Why perseverance?" makes the most sense to you? (There are three – pages 22 & 23). Explain, please.
5. What from this chapter encourages you?

At times there is a Higher Plan (pages 25-29)

1. Were you aware that such prominent Bible figures as the four 'exhibits' in this chapter dealt with "NO" in their prayer lives?
2. Which struggle resonates most with your heart? Job? Moses? Jesus? Paul? Explain your answer, please.
3. Have you ever pondered this reality? "We have a place in the presence of God because a prayer request was turned down." What does that thought stir inside you?
4. What did you think of Edith Schaeffer's concept of heaven having an art gallery featuring a series of twin exhibits? (page 29)
5. What from this chapter encourages you?

Conclusion (pages 30-32 and please go back and read the introduction)

1. Read the first paragraph of the conclusion. In your experience, is it true that platitudes tend to satisfy the giver more than the receiver?
2. Read the last three paragraphs of the introduction. Did you realize the Bible had so much to say about 'unanswered' prayer?
3. There are four responses suggested for God's silence when we pray. Please find and list them (pages 30 & 31).
 - Are these reasonable action items? (In your opinion)
 - With which of these four have you had personal experience?
 - What will be your personal first step from where you are today?
4. What is your take-away from this study?