



Why Doesn't God Answer Our Prayers?

By Mary Ann Collett

Lately, it seems I have had the privilege of journeying with several people who are grieving, seeking spiritual direction, or just looking for guidance. Many have been praying for the conversion of their children or a loved one, the physical healing of a close friend, a new job, a broken relationship, etc. Despite many prayers, the outcome wasn't what you expected.

In some cases, many have just given up and stopped praying. They even question the validity of Jesus' words, "Ask and you shall receive." Does prayer really make a difference or is it just something that makes us feel good? I have responded sometimes with a scripture reading and why it is important that we not only pray, but "***pray without ceasing***" (1Thes 5:17).

To put it in simple terms, and as a reminder to them, I tell them that prayer is a means of communicating and sharing with God. The Catechism discusses several different forms of prayer, including ***Blessing, Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving and Praise***. While each of these methods of prayer uses a different approach, they all involve an encounter between God and us.

Learning to understand that encounter will help us to better comprehend the meaning of prayer in our lives. Utilizing several of these methods will allow us to grow closer to the Lord, which is the ultimate objective of prayer. As we turn to the Lord in prayer, we'll begin to increase our desire for the things of Heaven and focus more on letting God's will guide our lives.

So, we should append all of our prayer requests with, "if it is your will." If we truly mean what we say, we'll have no problem accepting whatever God sends...even if it wasn't what we asked for. The ultimate example of praying in this manner was given by Our Lord as he suffered in the garden prior to His arrest and crucifixion. His prayer shows us the art of praying in union with the will of the Father. ***"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."*** (Mt 26:39)

As Catholics, we are so blessed, to have our church, friends, families and saints to intercede for our needs.

Recently, I came across these two prayers from a couple of my favorite Saints, St. Pope John Paul II and St. Padre Pio. I pray that these prayers will help guide you and inspire you to "Trust in the Will of God" Amen.

***Ask God for spiritual guidance to follow his will with this prayer from
St. John Paul II.***

Life can be difficult at times, especially when it is necessary to discern God's will.

We don't always know what to do, creating much anxiety in our hearts.

Here is a simple prayer from St. John Paul II, who often had to discern God's will in his life, not knowing which way God was taking him:

O God, You are our Creator. You are good and Your mercy knows no bounds. To You arises the praise of every creature. O God, You have given us an inner law by which we must live. To do Your will is our task.

To follow Your ways is to know peace of heart. To You we offer our homage.

Guide us on all the paths we travel upon this earth. Free us from all the evil tendencies which lead our hearts away from Your will. Never allow us to stray from You.

O God, judge of all humanity, help us to be included among Your chosen ones on the last day.

O God, Author of peace and justice, give us true joy and authentic love, and a lasting solidarity among peoples. Give us Your everlasting gifts. Amen.

St. John Paul II Sought the Intercession of Padre Pio with This Prayer He Recited at His Canonization:



When St. John Paul II canonized Padre Pio in 2002, he ended his homily with a special prayer asking his intercession.

It is a beautiful prayer, one that asks for St. Pio's help in our time of trial.

St. Pio, teach us, we ask you, humility of heart so we may be counted among the little ones of the Gospel, to whom the Father promised to reveal the mysteries of his Kingdom.

Help us to pray without ceasing, certain that God knows what we need even before we ask him.

Obtain for us the eyes of faith that will be able to recognize right away in the poor and suffering the face of Jesus.

Sustain us in the hour of the combat and of the trial and, if we fall, make us experience the joy of the sacrament of forgiveness.

Grant us your tender devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage toward the blessed homeland, where we hope to arrive in order to contemplate forever the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Mary Ann Collett is the proud mother of 3 married daughters and 8 grandchildren. She is an inspiring and dynamic Catholic Lay Evangelist; whose gift is to intertwine Scripture and personal stories. Mary Ann Collett, MSW, MA, CLEM, LLC, is a *Bereavement Counselor, Life Coach, Pastoral Care Counselor, Spiritual Director, Support Group Leader, and Speaker for Retreats and Workshops*. She is in private practice in Red Bank. Mary Ann has been in the Healing Ministry for over 37 years. She is the co-founder of the thriving ministry Catholic Women of Zion celebrating their 32nd year in 2021.

She has traveled nationally and internationally to spread the message of the Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.