

Steps To Having Prayers Answered

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the teaching by Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton walked the congregation through the foundational steps required for receiving answered prayer, anchoring the teaching in Mark 11:22-24 and the principle that the Word of God must genuinely take root inside a believer before prayer can produce consistent results. He challenged the group to move beyond passive hoping and religious excuses, and toward an active, word-driven, disciplined faith life. He emphasized that unanswered prayer is not a reflection of God withholding, but most often a result of believers failing to follow the clear steps Scripture lays out.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time when you were genuinely surprised that something worked exactly as promised, whether it was a recipe, a piece of advice, or a set of instructions. What made you decide to trust the process and follow it through?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 1 -- Knowing What You Want

Pastor Mirek described Step One as deciding specifically what you want from God and finding scripture to support that request. He said you cannot move to Step Two until Step One is firmly settled. Why do you think so many believers skip this step and go straight to praying without a clear, word-backed request? What does a lack of clarity in prayer reveal about a person's relationship with Scripture?

Question 2 -- Believing You Receive

He drew attention to the phrase "believe that you receive them" and pointed out that this is where most people lose the battle, because receiving must be believed at the moment of asking, not after the evidence appears. How does that challenge the way most people naturally think about prayer? What is the difference between genuine faith and wishful thinking, and how can a person honestly tell the difference in their own heart?

Question 3 -- The Role of Words

Pastor Mirek spent considerable time in 1 Peter 3 and Proverbs, pointing out that the words coming out of a believer's mouth either reinforce or undermine the faith they claim to have. He said that speaking contrary to what God says is, in its own way, a form of evil. How seriously does your group take the connection between daily speech and the effectiveness of personal prayer? Can you think of a real example where the words spoken over a situation shifted the outcome?

Question 4 -- Guarding the Mind

He highlighted Step Four as guarding the mind with great vigilance, referencing 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and the command to bring every thought into captivity. Pastor Mirek was direct in saying that God does not control your thoughts for you and that the responsibility belongs to the believer. What are the most common negative thought patterns that your group notices attacking faith during a season of waiting for answered prayer? What practical habits help quiet those thoughts?

Question 5 -- Religious Excuses Versus Biblical Truth

Pastor Mirek addressed the tendency in church culture to say that God sometimes answers yes, sometimes no, and sometimes wait, as a way of softening the demands of faith. He argued that this framing, when applied broadly, can become a religious cover for lack of Word-grounded prayer. How does a group balance honest, grace-filled pastoral care for someone whose prayer was not answered with a commitment to the clear promises of Scripture? Where is that line, and how does a community hold it well?

Question 6 -- The Word Abiding in You

He returned repeatedly to John 15:7, the condition that if believers abide in Christ and His words abide in them, they may ask what they will and it shall be done. Pastor Mirek made the case that the word must get inside a person, not simply be heard and forgotten. On a practical level, what does it look like for the Word of God to genuinely abide in someone, as opposed to simply being familiar to them? What is the difference between knowing a scripture and having it alive inside you?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, each group member should choose one specific need they have been praying about vaguely or inconsistently. They should write it down in one clear sentence, then find and write out at least two scriptures that directly address that need. Each day for the next seven days, they should read those scriptures aloud over their situation, refuse to speak doubt or fear over it, and journal any shift they notice in their confidence level by the end of the week. Bring the written scripture and a brief reflection to share at the next group meeting.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that each group member would develop a genuine hunger for the Word of God, not just familiarity with it, so that their prayers are rooted in scripture rather than emotion or habit.
 - Pray for the discipline to guard the mind, specifically asking God to help each person recognize negative and faithless thoughts quickly and replace them with what His Word declares, especially during seasons of waiting.
 - Pray for the group as a whole to become a community that speaks faith over one another rather than doubt, and that conversations within the group would build each person's confidence in God's willingness and ability to answer prayer.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)

"Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Leader Note: Encourage group members to be honest about where they find these steps difficult without allowing the conversation to drift into discouragement. The goal is growth and clarity, not condemnation. Pastor Mirek's tone throughout this teaching was one of urgency and love, and the discussion should reflect the same.