

QUESTION: Is there anything beyond God's ability? What about a person saying there is a situation that is "beyond God being able to fix or resolve it"?

ANSWER: No, there is nothing beyond God's ability, but there may be some things that are not His will for our lives, and therefore He will withhold those things. Also, some prayers may not SEEM to be answered by God, but the reasons are various, and **only the person praying** can examine himself to find the reason (i.e. - we should not JUDGE or speculate on why someone else's prayers are not answered).

- **Genesis 18:14** "Is ANYTHING TOO DIFFICULT for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."
- **Job 42:2** "I know that **You can do all things**, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."
- **Jeremiah 32:17 & 27** "Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and Your outstretched arm! **NOTHING is TOO DIFFICULT** for You." "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is ANYTHING too DIFFICULT for Me?"
- **Zechariah 8:6** "Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, **will it also be too difficult in My sight?**' declares the Lord of hosts."
- **Matthew 19:26** "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but **with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.**'"
- **Mark 10:27** "But looking at them, Jesus said, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God; for **WITH GOD all things are POSSIBLE.**'"
- **Luke 1:37** "For with God **NOTHING will be impossible.**"
- **Luke 18:27** "But He said, 'The things which are IMPOSSIBLE with men are **POSSIBLE with God.**'"
- **Ephesians 3:20** "Now to **Him who is ABLE** to do EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

Some common reasons for UNANSWERED PRAYER in the Bible:

1. **FREE WILL** - God will not FORCE someone against their will, either for salvation, or in a Christian's life for repentance, etc. Some Christians remain ignorant and stubborn out of their own choice and free will. I Corinthians 3:1-3; II Timothy 2:24-26; Hebrews 5:11-14
2. **GOD'S TIMING** - Some things take time, because God is working all things together, and waiting for certain things to happen. Romans 4:16-21; Rom. 8:28; Psalm 37:5-7
3. **SIN or LACK OF PERSONAL GROWTH** - Obvious sin and disobedience will prevent God from answering our prayers. Also, lack of surrender to His will, and lack of putting the Lord FIRST PLACE in our lives. Mark 11:25; Psalm 66:18; I Peter 5:5-7; Rom. 12:1-2; I John 3:18-22; I Peter 3:12; II Peter 1:3-11; Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 5:11-14; Revelation 2:4-5
4. **DOUBT AND UNBELIEF** - Lack of REAL faith, and wavering back and forth. James 1:6-8; James 5:15; Matt. 15:28; Mark 11:24
5. **IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD** - Not knowing the promises of God. John 15:7; Psalm 119:38,58,65; Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 5:11-14
6. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS IN GOD'S WORD** - Pride, stubbornness, thinking we know better than God how He should answer us. Genesis 4:3-7; II Kings 5:8-14

7. **NOT GOD'S WILL** - We may be asking for something that is not His will for us, or even something that is completely against His will for any child of His. I John 5:14-15; Psalm 84:11
8. **ASKING WITH WRONG MOTIVES** - The thing we're asking for may be in God's will, but He may withhold it if our MOTIVES are selfish or based in PRIDE. James 4:1-6; I Peter 5:5-7
9. **NOT BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY** - The promises of God and of ANSWERED PRAYER only belong to His children through faith in Jesus Christ. Matt. 7:23; Eph. 2:12-13; John 14:6; John 16:23-24; Hebrews 4:14-16; II Corinthians 1:20-21