

How many times have you asked GOD for something?.

Did GOD answer your prayer every time?.

Did GOD answer your prayers at all!.

"When My servants ask you about Me, I am always near. I answer their prayers when they pray to Me. The people shall respond to Me and believe in Me, in order to be guided." (2:186)

How can this be!. If GOD is telling us in His book that He answers prayers...Then WHY is He ignoring mine!!!.

This is really the tight spot that most of us go through on a regular basis, and which eventually works at eroding our faith, belief, and contact with GOD.

If GOD is hearing us, why doesn't He answer?.

Is it because I am bad?.

Or is it because I am not praying the way He wants, or fasting the way He told us, or doing all the commands that He has sent?.

We tear ourselves apart trying to work out where the 'mistakes' are and why we are being ignored...

But, is GOD really ignoring us?. Can the words of the Lord be 'untruthful'?

Preoccupation With the Wrong Life

[30:6] Such is GOD's promise - and GOD never breaks His promise - but most people do not know.

Let us tackle this issue using GOD's own words for guidance:

**"This Quran guides to the best path, and brings good news to the believers who lead a righteous life, that they have deserved a great recompense."
(17:9)**

1. Can we ask GOD for 'worldly' objects?.

This is really the 'million \$' question!. Many people have been able to convince themselves that GOD hears all prayers, but that the rewards are all attained in the next life...not this Earthly one.

Let us see if that is true:

[38:35] He said, "My Lord, forgive me, and grant me a kingship never attained by anyone else. You are the Grantor."

[38:36] We (answered his prayer and) committed the wind at his disposal, pouring rain wherever he wanted.

It appears that Solomon request for a pure 'Earthly' Kingship was answered!.

"...Whenever Zachariah entered her sanctuary he found provisions with her. He would ask, "Mary, where did you get this from?" She would say, "It is from GOD. GOD provides for whomever He chooses, without limits." (3:37)

Here we find GOD providing 'Earthly' nourishment for Mary!.

"That is when Zachariah implored his Lord: "My Lord, grant me such a good child; You are the Hearer of the prayers. The angels called him when he was praying in the sanctuary: "GOD gives you good news of John; a believer in the word of GOD, honorable, moral, and a righteous prophet." (3:38-39)

And Zachariah asking for an "Earthly" son!.

Now that we have seen that asking for worldly items is a 'Reality'...Let us see what else we can ask for.

2. Can we ask GOD for things in the Hereafter?.

"And GOD cites as an example of those who believed the wife of Pharaoh. She said, "My Lord, build a home for me at You in Paradise, and save me from Pharaoh and his works; save me from the transgressing people." (66:11)

Pharaoh's wife seeks a 'Heavenly' reward from GOD.

"My Lord, forgive me and my parents, and anyone who enters my home as a believer, and all the believing men and women..." (71:28)

Noah seeks 'forgiveness' from the Lord (a heavenly reward).

GOD's 'forgiveness' is (of course) Heavenly!.

Thus, we can ask for things in this life as well as the after-life!.

Now, if the Quran establishes both of the above facts, then **WHY** is it that our prayers go unanswered!!!.

Pre-conditions:

The Quran tells us that GOD answers the calls that implore Him with 'conditions':

Condition # 1: GOD Alone is Implored.

"If you are afflicted in the middle of the sea, you forget your idols, EXCEPT HIM. But as soon as He saves you to the shore, you revert. Indeed, the human being is unappreciative." (17:67)

"When they ride on a ship, they implore GOD, devoting their prayers to ONLY HIM. But as soon as He saves them to the shore, they revert to idolatry." (29:65)

This condition is of a 'general' nature for those people who from time to time, especially when in great distress, implore on Him Alone from the heart...

Many people who believe in 'Special Abilities' for Jesus, Mohammed, the Saints, the Scholars, etc... will go-through life without having GOD answer their prayers or needs

However, in EXTREME cases, these very same people will unknowingly and unwittingly implore on 'GOD Alone' from the heart to save or help them... Yet, as soon as their crisis is over, they go back to having idols in their hearts and forget that it was Him 'Alone' that saved them

Condition # 1: makes it clear why most of us go-through life without having GOD answer our calls and prayers... We all have many 'idols' in our lives (money, children, ego, power, prophets, saints, wise-men, etc..) which DISQUALIFIES us from having GOD answer our prayer.

Even the Prophets were not answered when they let something 'other' than GOD Alone get in the way:

"And Zan-Noon (Jonah), abandoned his mission in protest, thinking that we could not control him. He ended up imploring from the darkness: 'There is no god other than YOU. Be You glorified. I have committed a gross sin. We responded to him, and saved him from the crisis; we thus save the believers.'" (21:87-88)

Condition # 2: GOD Alone is Followed.

The real secret for knowing how to have your prayers ALWAYS answered (not just in times of distress) is to 'Live the righteous Life'

Perfect Happiness: Now and Forever

[41:30] Those who proclaim: "Our Lord is GOD," then lead a righteous life, the angels descend upon them: "You shall have no fear, nor shall you grieve. Rejoice in the good news that Paradise has been reserved for you.

[41:31] "We are your allies in this life, and in the Hereafter. You will have in it anything you wish for; you will have anything you want.

** You can be sure of leading a righteous life if you follow the commands found in the following verses: 6:151-153.*

The Major Commandments

[6:151] Say, "Come let me tell you what your Lord has really prohibited for you: You shall not set up idols besides Him. You shall honor your parents. You shall not kill your children from fear of poverty - we provide for you and for them. You shall not commit gross sins, obvious or hidden. You shall not kill - GOD has made life sacred - except in the course of justice. These are His commandments to you, that you may understand."

Additional Commandments

[6:152] You shall not touch the orphans' money except in the most righteous manner, until they reach maturity. You shall give full weight and full measure when you trade, equitably. We do not burden any soul beyond its means. You shall be absolutely just when you bear witness, even against your relatives. You shall fulfill your covenant with GOD. These are His commandments to you, that you may take heed.

You see, many people say and believe that the 'Lord is GOD'...Yet their prayers go unanswered.

Many people 'lead a righteous life'...Yet their prayers go unanswered.

It is only when these 2 elements are put **TOGETHER** that the 'Special Formula' for having your prayers answered can come to work!.

The Angels become 'assigned' to these people as their 'Allies' and they carry the responsibility (from GOD) of meeting the needs and desires of these people (in this worldly life).

These TWO conditions are further enforced in the next verses:

Submitters

[41:33] Who can utter better words than one who invites to GOD, works righteousness, and says, "I am one of the submitters"?

Thus, a Submitter is defined by these two terms (believes in GOD, works righteousness).

Condition # 2 : To have your prayers ALWAYS answered, you should be a Submitter (Believe in GOD & Lead a Righteous Life).

Condition # 3: What you ask is what you Get.

When speaking to GOD, we will ask for many things, and we will think of what to say and whether we want this or that thing...GOD does **NOT** respond to your 'words', but He will respond to what is asked from the 'Heart'.

Sometimes, a person may express a particular need or wish in his prayer directly, while thinking something to himself that expresses a different desire. GOD responds to the innermost desire.

Remember what the Angels have been committed to in Condition # 2?

[41:31] "We are your allies in this life, and in the Hereafter. You will have in it anything you wish for; you will have anything you want.

The verse makes clear that what you 'Desire' will take PRECEDENCE over what you 'Ask for'.

Condition # 4: Only what is Good for you is given!

While you may have truly asked for certain things (like change of job), GOD may not respond to your prayer since in it will be more harm than good.

GOD (in His ultimate Mercy) will only give you what is better (not worse).

[2:216] Fighting may be imposed on you, even though you dislike it. But you may dislike something which is good for you, and you may like something which is bad for you. GOD knows while you do not know.

If a child asks a parent for a 'snake', then the parent out of 'Love' for his/her child can never meet such a request...The Lord is more Merciful and Loving than any human being can EVER be, thus only the good things will be given (even-though we may not see that).

Condition # 5: Patience in Observed.

Now that we understand how to have our prayers answered, we must also understand that GOD responds 'As' and 'When' He sees fit:

Never Question God's Wisdom

[21:23] He is never to be asked about anything He does, while all others are questioned.

The Lord is our creator, GOD, and Master...He would never do anything to 'Harm' us or inflict 'Pain' or 'Suffering' to His servants...Thus, we must allow GOD to answer our calls in the 'Best Manor' that He deems rather than in our own 'Selfish' manor, which may cause more harm than good.

[23:111] "I have rewarded them today, in return for their steadfastness, by making them the winners."

[25:20] We did not send any messengers before you who did not eat food and walk in the markets. We thus test you by each other; will you steadfastly persevere? Your Lord is Seer.

A Submitter doesn't keep asking "why wasn't this or that prayer answered?" or "why do these bad things happen to me, while I'm a good person?", etc., but rather looks to see how GOD is always responding to and giving him and how He never fails to answer prayers on terms far better than what we like to impose.

Condition # 6: GOD Alone is Remembered.

Once we ask GOD Alone for help or for 'something', we must NOT turn our backs to Him and expect that He will still be there to help us.

[12:42] He then said to the one to be saved "Remember me at your lord."* Thus, the devil caused him to forget his Lord, and, consequently, he remained in prison a few more years.

In the story of Joseph, we see how a 'righteous' man, a Messenger, was left to spend years in-prison because he did not 'Remember' to implore GOD Alone!.

Always keep GOD is your heart and in your mind...Without Him, we are all absolutely NOTHING.

WARNING!!!

Although the above tells us how to have our prayers answered, we should heed the advise of GOD who tells us:

What your prayers should encompass is:

"Our Lord, grant us righteousness in this world, and righteousness in the Hereafter, and spare us the retribution of Hell."

There is no crime in being greedy for both this world AND the next, as long as the one being asked is GOD Alone!.

Conclusion:

Now that we have shown how GOD's system is at work, you should ask yourself: 'Are ALL my prayers being answered?'

If the answer is 'No'...then you need to examine 2 elements in your life:

1. Do you believe in GOD Alone (no power or place for anything or anyone else)?;
2. Do you lead a 'Righteous' life? (as drawn-out by the 'Straight Path' 6:151-153).

