

Unanswered Prayers

Nehemiah 1:11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Help was urgently needed, earnestly solicited, yet unaccountably delayed.
2. Nehemiah's prayer does not seem to have been answered for four months though it was continually offered.

DISCUSSION: Prayer may remain unanswered...

I. Because of a defect in the petitioner.

- A. Lack of submission (Matt. 6:9, 10)
- B. Lack of faith (James 1:6-8)
- C. Lack of proper motivation (James 4:3)
- D. Lack of forgiveness (Matt. 6:14, 15)
- E. Lack of need

II. Because of a defect in the petition.

- A. It may be unsuitable.
- B. It may be harmful.
- C. It may be impractical.

III. Because of a defect in the period.

- A. The conditions and time may not be right for the full blessings sought (Gal. 4:4).
- B. God's agents may not be fully prepared.
- C. Circumstances may not yet be congenial.
- D. The time may not be opportune.

CONCLUSION:

1. At the right time, God will manifest Himself according to His will.
2. It is our duty to watch and wait.