

# Living in the Light

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A STUDY IN 1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN

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## **Living in the Light Part 8—What to do with unanswered prayers? 6.6.2021**

### **USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***Once my life has been infused with the grace of God, I want to live a life of obedience.***

### **[1 John 5:1]**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And **everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.**

### **[1 John 5:2]**

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

### **[1 John 5:3]**

Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. (*Unbearable to carry or a source of grief*)

### [1 John 5:14a]

Since **we have this confidence**, we can also have great boldness before him,...

### [Hebrews 4:16]

Let us then **approach God's throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### [Hebrews 10:19-20]

And so, dear brothers and sisters, **we can boldly enter** heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death,<sup>[b]</sup> Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place....

"So, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him."

### [1 John 5:14-15, AMP]

This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] and have before Him: that **if we ask anything according to His will**, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] **He hears us**.

And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

### [Matthew 21:22]

*"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

### [John 15:7]

*"But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"*

**[Matthew 7:7]**

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives..."*

**[James 4:3]**

When you ask, you do not receive, because **you ask with wrong motives**, you only want what will give you pleasure.

**[1 Peter 3:7]**

Husbands, you must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should **so your prayers will not be hindered.**

While We Wait:

**1. Our hearts are being refined**

***Our hearts must be refined in order for our prayers to follow the Word of God.***

***God's highest priority for you is what you become, not what you get!***

***Something really value is happening in the waiting years.***

**[Psalm 105:19]**

Until the time that his word of prophecy came true,  
The word of the LORD **tested *and* refined him.**

**[1 Peter 1:6-7]**

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. **It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold**—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

***Purifying does not come without trials and the fire.***

While We Wait:

## **2. Our desires are being realigned**

**[Psalm 37:4]**

**Delight** yourself in the LORD,  
and **he will give you the desires** of your heart.

**TRUST—DELIGHT—COMMIT**

***In the waiting, your desires change.***

While We Wait:

## **3. We Develop Resilient - Unshakable Faith!**

**Psalm 27:14, TPT**

Here's what I've learned through it all:

Don't give up; don't be impatient;  
be entwined as one with the Lord.<sup>[a]</sup>

Be brave and courageous, and never lose hope.

**Yes, keep on waiting**—for he will never disappoint you!

## **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Pray and ask God for the strength to keep waiting in the mystery of our unanswered prayers.
2. Invite God to speak to you about your unanswered prayers.

### **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. What are some ways to investigate our faith and see if its authentic?
2. Why does grace come first?
3. What unanswered prayer have you given up on? Why have you stopped asking for it to be answered?
4. How can the church remain faithful to God even though some prayers haven't been answered yet?
5. What helps your prayer life while you are waiting on God?
6. How does our heart get refined while we are waiting? Why is this important?