

**Aim:** To discuss what it means to pray "according to God's will"

There are lots of verses in the Bible which talk about God answering our prayers. **But have you ever prayed and God hasn't answered? Or didn't seem to answer?**

---

Let's read some of the verses about God answering prayers:

**Matthew 7:7**<sub>NLT</sub> Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.

**Matthew 21:22** You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.

**John 15:7**<sub>NLT</sub> But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

**1 John 5:14-15**<sub>NLT</sub> And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him.

---

The last three verses have what we call a "qualifier" – they don't just say ask and you can have anything you want; they have an "if" in them.

Matthew 21:22 says "if you have faith" – other versions say "if you believe."

So when you pray you have to believe that God can and will answer your prayer.

The last two verses say "if you remain in Me and My words are in you" and "anything that pleases Him" – other versions say "ask according to God's will")

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 He said to pray "May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." <sub>NLT</sub>

---

**If you asked your parents for a dangerous pet like a poisonous snake or a large crocodile would they get you one? Why would your parents say no? Can you think of anything else they might say no to?**

**Does God want to give us things that are dangerous or bad for us?**

---

So we can ask God for anything but we have to believe that He hears us and will answer us. And we have to realise that God often says "yes", but sometimes He says "no" or sometimes "wait awhile." But we can be sure that whatever He does is the best thing for us.

**Read Jeremiah 29:11**