

Peace for the Journey ... June 24, 2010

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 26:36-46](#)

For many of us, the problem of unanswered prayer is really the problem of not getting what we want. We may intellectually understand that God answers prayer in many ways (i.e. *yes*, *no*, or *not now*,) but it bothers us because God doesn't do what we want God to do. Part of the problem is that we have an image of God that is more like Santa Claus* than the God revealed in Scripture, and we are often more childish than we care to admit. (There's a difference between being [childish](#) and [childlike](#).)

As long as we assume that fulfilling our desires and wants is God's highest priority and that God's will and our will are in perfect alignment, then we are bound to be disappointed when God insists on being God and doing things His way.

Like a loving parent who doesn't let a four-year-old play in the street, God thankfully doesn't give in to our every desire. What we believe is that, as a loving parent, God knows best, seeks the best for His children, and gives us what we need.

When we go with Jesus to the place called Gethsemane, we learn about the power of honest prayer: we learn to acknowledge that God knows best and that there is often a profound difference between what we want and what we need -- between what we want and what God wants.

Jesus said, *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."*

If we would be willing to follow Jesus' example and pray, *"not what I want but what you want,"* and *"your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,"* ([Matthew 6:10](#)) then we might experience more answered prayer.

The secret to answered prayer is simple: pray that God's will be done and then let God's will be done ... through you.