

## **WHY DO MY PRAYERS GO UNANSWERED WEEK TWO**

**WHERE IS GOD...you did everything right: said your prayers, read your bible, held nothing back. You asked God for a SIGN/HAND/CURE/MAP; you waited patiently for his answer. Only it never came. It was as if your prayers BOUNCED OFF THE CEILING. Crises have a way of exposing PRAYER ISSUES. All the saints, even Jesus himself, suffered dry spells in prayer. There are times when we feel as abandoned as Jesus in Gethsemane when he sweated blood, begged God to remove his suffering, but the answer he got was, "no"**

**GOD SPEAKS IN SILENCE...Is God less loving if we don't see results? Many people think that if THEY PRAY, GOD ANSWERS; if they are FAITHFUL, God will BLESS them in some way. What if God speaks best by NOT SPEAKING at all? What if SILENCE is the one of the main ways GOD SPEAKS? What if there are things we can learn ONLY IN SILENCE, only by facing OURSELVES. God's presence isn't something that WE CAN COMMAND or CONTROL. God reserves the right to answer prayer in his own time or else it would be a disaster.**

**LIVING HONESTLY BEFORE GOD...we all wrestle with prayer. Whatever else prayer is, it isn't telling God what you want to happen. God isn't waiting for us to pray before he gets Involved. Are we being open and honest with God? Do we put ourselves at his disposal or do we only ask him for favors? In prayer, we seek God, not what we think God can do for us.**

**THE GOD WHO KNOWS US...start prayer with this in mind: know that GOD KNOWS YOU and LOVES YOU. It isn't words that connect you to God; love connects you to God. Prayer is first an ACT OF LOVE. To love someone, you long to be WITH THEM to let them love you. The miracle of prayer is not GETTING THE ANSWERS WE SEEK but meeting THE GOD WHO SEEKS US. Prayer doesn't change God's nature. It changes our perspective. Had God granted all our prayers, our lives would be MORE CONFUSED than they already are!**

**WILL GOD, NOT CAN GOD...in prayer we seek God, not what we think God can do for us. Prayer doesn't revolve around us. WHAT WE SAY/FEEL, but WHAT GOD MIGHT DO, what HE MIGHT WANT US TO DO. It isn't an issue of "CAN GOD" but only "WILL GOD". We don't know IF GOD WILL, but we need to start by believing that GOD CAN.**