



When God
answers
your prayers

Sermon Study Guide

Lead Pastor Brian Bales : *When God Answers Your Prayers*
Exodus 16:1-12

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.” ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.” ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” Exodus 16:1-12 (ESV)

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

1. How do you think about prayer? It is a spiritual discipline or rhythm but there are many descriptors for prayer. In this story in Exodus the Israelites are grumbling, lamenting, and petitioning. They had been in captivity in Egypt for 400 years and in Exodus 2 we see that they prayed and cried out to God to be set free. So, after a series of plagues and under the leadership of Moses, they were let go and even as they left, God destroyed their enemies at the crossing of the Red Sea.
 - The historical timeline and the events that follow are significant. What surprises you about the Israelites response and behavior in chapter 16?

2. Worry can happen slowly; it can seep into our thoughts affecting how we view life and God. Like rust that eats away metal, worry will damage our soul until we no longer view God clearly or follow Him faithfully.
 - When you find yourself worrying, where do you go with your feelings of anxiety, fear, distress, even anger? If your source is something or someone other than God, how well has that source served you?

 - What do you find yourself worrying about the most?

- In this story in Exodus, what are the Israelites consumed by? How many people are grumbling and anxious about their circumstances?
3. Consider a time when you looked back at a past negative event and your memory of it was distorted.
- How were the Israelites mis-remembering their captivity and holding others accountable for their circumstances?

 - When they discovered that their food supply was running low, they immediately imagined themselves starving. What choice could they had made in that moment?

 - How is it possible to worry and trust God at the same time? Describe if this is even possible.

5. Finally consider this observation; *Sabotage is not the bad things that evil people do. It is the human things that anxious people do.* – Tod Bolsinger So, how do we become less anxious people?

- The power of the Holy Spirit in us should remind us of who God is and where we have seen Him at work previously in our life. How did the Israelites overlook the evidence of God's presence and His past provision?
- How can you be more intentional in listening to the Holy Spirit speaking truth to you in the midst of anxious thoughts? How will God's word be a helpful source?

I pray that God, the Source of Hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you Trust Him. Then you will overflow with Confident Hope through the Power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Heb. 10:23

MAKING IT REAL

This week ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you in moments of worry. Journal what you hear and look back at the above passages. Consider these reminders here:

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength. Corrie Ten Boom