

# RECEPTION INTERFERENCE

(THE ANSWER WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR SERIES – PART 3)

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## THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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There is a lot of interference in our dialogue with God. Our prayer is like the mobile phone that needs a clear signal; a bad signal leads to frustration and anger. Our wrong doings (sins) and wrong thinking lead to a reception interference in our dialogue with God. We must continuously listen to His word to pray correctly and ask Him to help us follow His will.

**1. Biblical actions in prayer.** In the Bible, the people prayed to God in different ways. Some people lifted their hands in praise; some sat with their heads between their knees; some put their hands together; some lay prostrate on the ground. These help them focus while praying. These different prayer positions do not affect the connection with God or why He cannot hear us or we cannot hear His voice. In Jeremiah 33:3, God says He will answer our calls (outgoing calls) if we pray fervently. On the other hand, we also receive messages (incoming calls) from the Lord even on things that we have not prayed for.

**2. Why does God seem to be far away?** In the story of the raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), the two sisters, Mary and Martha, requested the presence of Jesus to heal their sick brother Lazarus. Jesus, however, did not come immediately but stayed longer with His disciples. He declared that what was happening to His friend Lazarus was for the glory of God. It was a declaration that was mysterious to His disciples and to the sisters. With the pain of the death of Lazarus, our Lord Jesus Christ let them experience a miracle. He gave them a greater blessing than what they asked for. He raised Lazarus to life.

Similarly, God sometimes says no to our prayers. But then He gives an answer that goes beyond our imagination. Jesus taught us the power of prayer: belief in prayer (Mk. 11:24), He is present when we gather in His name (Matt. 18:20), we will receive our request if ask in His name (Jn. 14:14).

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However, some of our prayers are not answered according to our expectations. When we start to doubt, our dialogue with God will have a reception interference. In Habakkuk 1:1-4, the prophet saw the violence and problems suffered by Israel. He called upon God for help. In our time, we experience injustice everywhere and we pray the same way as the prophet. God's answer to Habakkuk (Hab. 2:2-4), reveals the thinking of God. His timing is different. He said that though we feel a delay, for Him it has already happened. We have to wait and watch, and trust Him. There are prayers that God answers differently and in various ways.

**3. God says no to prayers that are inappropriate or have wrong motives** (James 4:3). We have to rethink the way we ask God. There are some requests that would lead us to our downfall. How do we know we are wrong? Our continuous dialogue with God will eventually reveal the reasons why He does not answer our prayer. Our frequent dialogue with God will lead us to an understanding of how He works in our lives. He will make us grow to become mature Christians.

### Conclusion:

Our dialogue with God requires a "clear signal." Our life of sin interferes with our communication with Him. We must reflect on the way we live our lives to understand our relationship with God.

### Reflection:

1. What are the sins that are creating interference in your conversations with God?
2. What steps can you take now to get out of your "dead zone?"

**Prayer:** "Jesus, we ask for the forgiveness of our sins and cleansing of our motives. Help us to pray and align this to your will. Amen."

**SCRIBES MINISTRY:** Transcribed by: Rem Sagarino

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