

# RANSOMED HEART



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## How Do You Interpret Unanswered Prayers?



Be very careful how you interpret “unanswered prayer.” Our hearts are so vulnerable in these moments. It’s just too easy to lose heart. The conclusions come rushing in—*God isn’t listening; he doesn’t care; I’m not faithful enough; prayer doesn’t really work.* Catch yourself! Don’t let your heart go there! Ask Jesus to help you interpret what is going on. *Jesus—catch my heart*, is the first thing I always pray. *Catch my heart, Lord. Help me interpret what is going on here.* Beware those nasty, soul-killing agreements.

The disappointment is real. I appreciate that the scripture admits deferred hope makes the heart sick, because that sure is true in my experience; it assures me that God knows it does too. He said so. The disappointment of unanswered prayer can be devastating. We need to invite the love of God into the disappointment; we need his ministry there. We may need to shed some tears; we may need to grieve; we might need to take a base- ball bat to a trash can. However we express our heartsickness, we *must* invite Jesus there—just like we do with inner healing prayer—to comfort, heal, and restore.

I have had to add another phrase to my journal on who God is, and who I am:

*God is not a betrayer—he does not betray and he has never betrayed me.*