

CAN I BE HONEST

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question

Share a time when you prayed for something and God's answer looked different than what you expected. How did you respond?

Key Takeaways

- 1.) Our expectations can sometimes rob us of the blessings in our reality.
- 2.) Withheld hearts remain unsundered to God's will.
- 3.) God often answers prayers in ways we don't anticipate, sometimes even bringing greater challenges.
- 4.) It's important to be honest with God about our feelings, even when we're frustrated or disappointed.
- 5.) Our disappointments can be signposts to areas where God wants to do His greatest work.

Discussion Questions

- 1.) How do you typically react when God's answer to your prayer is different from what you wanted?
- 2.) Pastor Zach mentioned, "Without surrendered hearts, our goals are merely things waiting to be crossed off a list of things that we will never actually accomplish." What does a surrendered heart look like in practical terms?
- 3.) Reflect on the story of Jonah. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation, where you obeyed God but were unhappy with the outcome? How did you handle it?
- 4.) The sermon suggests that we should be honest with God about our frustrations and disappointments. How comfortable are you with expressing negative emotions to God in prayer? Why or why not?
- 5.) How can we maintain an open mind and surrendered heart during times of prayer and fasting?

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Practical Application

- 1.) *Start a prayer journal: Write down your prayers, including your honest feelings and reactions to God's responses.*
- 2.) *Practice surrender: Each day this week, intentionally pray "Not my will, but Yours be done" about a specific area of your life.*
- 3.) *Meditate on Scripture: Spend time reflecting on Philippians 1:6 and how it applies to your current life circumstances.*
- 4.) *Honest prayer exercise: Take time to have an honest conversation with God about an area where you're feeling frustrated or disappointed. After expressing your feelings, spend time in silence, allowing God to speak to you.*
- 5.) *Accountability check: Partner with someone in the group to share your prayer journey over the next week, including any challenges or insights you encounter.*