

# Unanswered Prayer

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In the mid-1990s, I was an officer in the Air Force (AF) and longed to have the “Friends” lifestyle I had watched on TV in college. The “Friends” lived life together, were successful, happy, and always had someone to depend on. I longed for that in my life.

- Doesn't a BFF mean that I'm likable, nice, memorable...worthy?
- If I don't have a BFF, does it mean that I'm not...worthy?
- Doesn't God see that my ex-BFF abandoned me?
- Doesn't He see that everyone around me has one?
- I WANT A REPLACEMENT. I NEED A BFF!

I found a few close AF friends after college. I was fulfilled and happy when they called to invite me out. But when they didn't call, I was lonely. In high school I had dreamed of being a pilot because it was the coolest job ever—I thought it would make me popular and well-liked. I thought a cool career would protect me from loneliness. At Pilot Training, I worked hard and I was on my way....

**BUT GOD...**came and interrupted my plans.

He interfered with my plan to protect myself from insignificance. He threw circumstances at me that made it difficult to cope with daily life, much less fly an airplane! I had to turn in my wings and give up my cool career. Fast-forward 15 years. I lived out another plan to protect myself from insignificance. I had finally found the antidote to loneliness and insignificance: a new BFF. She gave me new hope! I invested my time and effort in building a friendship. I was on my way....

**BUT GOD...**came and interrupted my plans again.

**How God worked through unanswered prayer—(and RESOURCES)**

**Stop looking horizontally for what can only be found vertically.** Stop looking to friends, accomplishments, possessions, etc. for identity, meaning, or value. Creation was never meant to satisfy, but to point you to the Creator, the only one who can satisfy your heart. (Paul Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*, Jan 11th).

**I worshipped people.** ‘We worship [people] as ones who have God-like ability to “fill” us with esteem, love, admiration, acceptance, respect...!’ *Gospel*, JD Greear, p. 44. Had I made my BFF an idol? (See Romans 1:25)

**Comparing myself to others was deadly.** I constantly looked around and compared myself to others—I always saw their blessings and my lack. There's no win in comparison. *The Comparison Trap*, Pastor Andy Stanley, subsplash.com video, Feb 2014.

**Forgiveness.** I needed to forgive my ex-BFF friend who'd abandoned me. ‘If you don't forgive, you will be tormented.’ *Hope Ahead*, Barb Mulvey/ Cris Paulson, p. 196.

**I don't need a BFF.** I repented to God for demanding a BFF. I had elevated my desire for a BFF to an idol and worshipped it over Him. No wonder he didn't answer my BFF prayer. He wanted to be first in my life. It took many years, but I finally made him Lord of my life. His Truth broke the power of the lie I believed for 30 years! *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.* (Galatians 5:1)

**Know my identity as a child of God and live like it!** *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.* (Matthew 3:17.) ‘Satan tempted Jesus to “earn” his significance elsewhere and Jesus rebuked him by saying His Father's Word was enough.’ (JD Greear, Matthew 4:4)

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