

QUESTIONS

ABOUT PRAYER

PART 3



REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

WHY DO A SERIES ON
QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER?

YOUR QUESTIONS
ABOUT PRAYER

QUESTIONS FROM
FORMER CHRISTIANS

THE UNANSWERED
PRAYERS OF JESUS



REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

DOES PRAYER CHANGE
GOD'S MIND?

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN,
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO
TO PRAY?

WHY PRAY IF GOD
ALREADY KNOWS
ALL OF YOUR NEEDS?



REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

DOES PRAYER CHANGE GOD'S MIND?



Verses in Scripture that point to God not changing His mind.

Verses in Scripture that point to God changing His mind.

Examples in Scripture where God changed His mind.

Examples in Scripture where God did not change His mind.

REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

DOES PRAYER CHANGE GOD'S MIND?



Consensus:

It is likely that God can “change His mind.”

This seems to mostly result from our wrestling with God.

We can never really know the mind of God, so our best course of action (and the one commanded in Scripture) is to pray as if we can change God’s mind.

REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN,
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO
TO PRAY?



Consensus:

God invites prayer, even as we pray “thy will be done.”

At times, God appears to restrict His sovereignty to allow us to exercise our free will.

Other times, He intervenes in the natural order to compel a result.

Since we cannot know which will occur in any single circumstance, our best course of action is to pray.

REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

WHY PRAY IF GOD
ALREADY KNOWS
ALL OF YOUR NEEDS?



Consensus:

Assurance that God knows our needs does not make prayer pointless, it actually makes it more meaningful.

Jesus commands prayer despite the Father knowing our needs.

Jesus modeled prayer for reasons other than petitioning God.

Jesus commended persistent and insistent prayer well after our needs were made known.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

DOES PRAYER CHANGE GOD,
OR DOES IT CHANGE US?



THE POWER OF PRAYER

~~DOES PRAYER CHANGE GOD,
OR DOES IT CHANGE US?~~

DOES PRAYER *ONLY* CHANGE US,
OR DOES IT ALSO CHANGE THE WORLD?



“Axioms” of Prayer:

If your prayer is not answered, it is because you lack the faith.

True miracles of physical healing occur every day; God wants you to be healed and is waiting for you to ask.

The prayers of a righteous person carry more weight with God. If you are righteous, and doing His will, your prayer will be answered.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

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DOES PRAYER *ONLY* CHANGE US,
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“Axioms” of Prayer:

The more people pray for a certain result, the more likely it is for God to grant that request (praying in agreement).

Some people have the “gift of intercession” which means they have a spiritual gift whereby God listens more to their prayer for others.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

IF YOUR PRAYER
IS NOT ANSWERED
IT IS BECAUSE
YOU LACK FAITH.



Philip Yancey:

Jesus could have said something like this: “I am bestowing the gift of prayer. You must realize, of course, that humans cannot have perfect wisdom, so there are limits as to whether your prayers will be answered. Prayer operates like a suggestion box. Spell out your requests clearly to God, and I guarantee that all requests will be carefully considered.”

THE POWER OF PRAYER

IF YOUR PRAYER
IS NOT ANSWERED
IT IS BECAUSE
YOU LACK FAITH.



"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him."

- Mark 11:23

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

- Mark 11:24

THE POWER OF PRAYER

IF YOUR PRAYER
IS NOT ANSWERED
IT IS BECAUSE
YOU LACK FAITH.



“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

- John 14:12-14

THE POWER OF PRAYER

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The Problem of Un-Prayed Blessings

The Problem of Un-Wise Prayers

The Problem of Contradictory Prayers

The Problem of Inconsistent Results

THE POWER OF PRAYER

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE
HEALED AND IS WAITING
FOR YOU TO ASK.



Jesus appears to have healed everyone who asked for healing.

But there were many others Jesus did not heal or feed.

Jesus seemed to selectively use miracles.

Miracles in our world today also seem to happen on an infrequent basis.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

THE PRAYERS OF A RIGHTEOUS
PERSON CARRY MORE WEIGHT
WITH GOD.



“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

- James 5:16-18

THE POWER OF PRAYER

THE MORE PEOPLE AGREE
ABOUT A PARTICULAR PRAYER
THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT
THE PRAYER WILL BE ANSWERED.



“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”

- Matthew 18:18-19

THE POWER OF PRAYER

DOES THE GIFT OF
INTERCESSION MEAN
THAT PERSONS PRAYER IS
MORE EFFECTIVE FOR OTHERS?



The gift of intercession is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray for extended period of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

Luke 22:41-44; Acts 12:12; Colossians 1:9-12; Colossians 4:12-13; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 5:14-16

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Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

- Colossians 4:12-13

WE WANT A FORMULA,
SOME SORT OF MAGIC
INCANTATION:



Job's friends: It must be because....

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."

- John 9:1-3



WELCOME TO EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM

INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF
EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

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FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR HOW EXODUS HAS
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