

**QUESTIONS**

**ABOUT PRAYER**

**PART 5**



# 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?

DOES PRAYER CHANGE CIRCUMSTANCES,  
OR DOES IT ONLY CHANGE US?



# REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

IF YOUR PRAYER IS NOT ANSWERED,  
IS IT BECAUSE YOU LACK FAITH?

IS IT MORE LIKELY THAT YOUR PRAYER  
WILL BE ANSWERED IF A GREATER  
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE PRAYING?

ARE SOME PEOPLE'S PRAYERS  
HEARD MORE THAN OTHERS  
(THE GIFT OF INTERCESSION)?



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



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



*The statement is not an accurate summary of the totality of Jesus' teachings on the subject, does not reflect the limits placed on these words elsewhere, and does not reflect the full counsel of scripture.*

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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



1. Your prayer may not be answered because it is against God's sovereign will.

1 John 5:14: *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."*

2. Your prayer may not be answered because it is against God's moral will.

1 John 3:22: *"And whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."*

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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



3. Your prayer may not be answered because you are not abiding in Christ.

*John 15:7: "If you abide in me, and My words in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done."*

4. Your prayer may not be answered because of sin.

*1 Peter 3:12: "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (citing Psalm 34:12-16)*

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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



5. Your prayer may not be answered because of improper motives.

James 4:3 *“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”*

6. Your prayer may not be answered because of issues of forgiveness

Mark 11:25: *“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you.”*



# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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



And finally . . .

7. Your prayer may not be answered because you lack faith.

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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



And finally . . .

7. Your prayer may not be answered because you lack faith.

*Faith that God can make it happen (God's power),  
vs. faith that what you pray for will happen (certainty)*

THE POWER OF PRAYER

WHY WON'T GOD  
HEAL AMPUTEES?



# CHRISTIAN RESPONSES:

1. Jesus was speaking with the Apostles; miracles have ceased since the time of the Apostles.
  2. Prayer is for strength to deal with the situation, not to change it.
  3. We don't know that God has never healed an amputee; just because we don't know of such an instance doesn't mean it has never happened.
- That would be too obvious a show of God's power, and it would destroy our ability to have faith.
  - Prosthetics evidence God's provision and love for us.
  - An amputation is a medical procedure, not something that requires healing. (It was the healing.)
  - People born without limbs are born for the Glory of God (John 9).



# THE POWER OF PRAYER

## WHY WONT GOD HEAL AMPUTEES?



The Question Assumes:

1. God's love, goodness and mercy require Him to heal everyone.
2. God is bound by (subservient) to our prayers.
3. God's promises are limited to this life, and that our future life with Him cannot qualify as an answer our prayers.
4. Miracles occur with the same frequency as they did in other periods described in scripture.

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

## WHY WONT GOD HEAL AMPUTEES?



### The Question Highlights:

1. Miracles may occur with much less frequency than we imagine.
2. God may act much more often through His providence than through acts which contravene His natural order.
3. God chooses to partner with us. He may choose not to act in areas where we can/should act in His name (for His purposes).
4. We may not understand the nature and quality of life lived in the midst of a fallen existence (consequences of sin and suffering).

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

## WHY WON'T GOD HEAL AMPUTEES?



### Question Yourself:

1. Am I expecting a miracle as an entitlement?
2. Am I using the benefits of God's common grace and providence, such as our body's ability to heal itself or medical knowledge?
3. Do I wrongly blame God for causing suffering?
4. Can I accept that physical healing may not take place?



**NEXT WEEK:**

**IF PRAYER IS SUPPOSED TO BE  
A CONVERSATION WITH GOD,  
WHY DON'T I HEAR  
ANYTHING BACK?**

**THEN:**

**THE REST OF YOUR  
QUESTIONS**







## 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.

WE WELCOME YOU TO SEND  
FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD  
LOVE TO HEAR HOW EXODUS HAS  
IMPACTED YOU. EMAIL US AT:

[INFO@EXODUSPODCASTS.COM](mailto:INFO@EXODUSPODCASTS.COM)

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[WWW.EXODUSPODCASTS.COM](http://WWW.EXODUSPODCASTS.COM)

- ALL OF OUR PODCASTS
- POWERPOINT SLIDES
- PODCAST TRANSCRIPTS
- BLOG UPDATES
- REFERENCE MATERIALS

© 2013 EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

YOU MAY FREELY DISTRIBUTE WITHOUT ALTERATION.