



Prayer 4

Does praying make a difference?

"He who rises from prayer a better man, his prayer is answered."



Prayer that works:

Lk. 18:9-14 – How did the prayer of the tax collector make a difference?

Act. 12:5, 11 – How did the prayers of the church make a difference?

1 King. 18:36-39 – How did Elijah's prayer make a difference?

Prayer in expectation:

Mt. 7:7-11 – How did Jesus expect prayer to make a difference?

Col. 4:2-4 – How did Paul expect prayer to make a difference?

Jam. 5:14-16 – How did James expect prayer to make a difference?

Jam. 4:2 – What difference does prayerlessness make?

**"When I pray, coincidences happen.
When I don't, they don't."
[William Temple]**

Prayer for what God has promised:

Dan.9:1-3, 17-19

What did Daniel pray for?

How could he be sure that God would do what he asked?

Why pray if God has already promised to do it?

"Prayer is one of the means God has ordained that his children should use to obtain blessings from him."

Prayer and God's sovereignty:

a) God's ways and means changed - *Ex.32:7-14*

What did God resolve to do to the Israelites? How did he intend to fulfil his covenant promises to Abraham?

What did Moses pray? How did God respond?

b) God's ultimate purposes unchanged (*Num.23:19*)

Mt.26:36-44

What did Jesus pray for in the Garden of Gethsemane?

How did God respond?

1Jn.5:14-15

What do we learn here about how God answers prayer?

Prayer and God's glory:

The goal of all prayers should be the honour of God's name – *Ex.32:12; Dan.9:18-19; Jn.12:28*

"FATHER, GLORIFY YOUR NAME" – that's what to pray when you don't know what to pray

- ✘ Is everything that happens in the world predetermined by God?
- ✘ How does the sovereignty of God affect our praying?