



PRAYER.

DOES IT REALLY CHANGE THINGS?

Exodus 32:7-8

*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for **your** people, whom **you** brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them.*



Exodus 32:8-11

They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"



Exodus 32:8-11

And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."



Exodus 32:11-12

*Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said,
"O Lord, why does your anger burn against **your**
people whom **you** have brought out from the land of
Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"*



Exodus 32:12-13

"Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and change your mind about doing harm to Thy people."



Exodus 32:13-14

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"



Exodus 32:14

*So the Lord changed His mind about the harm
which He said He would do to His people.*



Numbers 23:19

*"God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent
(change His mind);*



1. God's purposes prevail



Isaiah 46:9-10

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established,



Ephesians 1:10-11

*In Him, also we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined according to His purpose
who works all things after the counsel of His will,*



2. God's plans are evolving



Exodus 32:7

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.



God allowed Moses to be in this situation so that he would see the problem, remember God's promises and ask God to change his decision



3. Our prayers matter!



Moses doesn't fixate on the purposes of God but rather puts his focus on the promises of God.



*You are placed where he wants you to be so you
can obey and pray for the things he wants to do;
to perceive the problem and believe the promise
and release his power into the situation*



2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.



What about unanswered prayer???



Reasons why prayers aren't answered



Reasons why prayers aren't answered

1. Because you're not a Christian



Reasons why prayers aren't answered

1. Because you're not a Christian
2. Because we need to change



James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.



Reasons why prayers aren't answered

1. Because you're not a Christian
2. Because we need to change
3. Because our prayers don't line up with God's will.



1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.



Reasons why prayers aren't answered

1. Because you're not a Christian
2. Because we need to change
3. Because our prayers don't line up with God's will.
4. Because we're praying contrary to God's processes



Matthew 23:37

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets
and stones those who are sent to her! How often I
wanted to gather your children together, the way
a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you
were unwilling.*



Acts 14:22

"Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."



Reasons why prayers aren't answered

1. Because you're not a Christian
2. Because we need to change
3. Because our prayers don't line up with God's will.
4. Because we're praying contrary to God's processes
5. Because we are not honoring our wives



1 Peter 3:7

You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.



Reasons why prayers aren't answered

1. Because you're not a Christian
2. Because we need to change
3. Because our prayers don't line up with God's will.
4. Because we're praying contrary to God's processes
5. Because we are not honoring our wives
6. Because some (prayers) will not be answered until his return



- Like Moses – Jesus stood between the anger of a righteous God and the sin of his people
- Like Moses – Jesus offered to give his life rather than destroy us (Exodus 32:32)
 - God said to Moses, “I’ll destroy them and take you
 - Jesus said, “Destroy me and take them”

