

Persistence In Prayer Moves God's Heart

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QUESTIONS: Does the sovereignty of God prevent answered prayer? If nothing happens apart from His will does that mean He is responsible for the bad that happens in the world? Does His will discourage us from prayer? (Not really the problem for most but let's look at it.)

Ex. Lewis: "God In The Docks" (Scraps) 1945

Genesis 18: 16-33 God is immutable; His character does not change. But He has personhood; He is alive. He answers prayer; and loves when we persist in prayer over a good thing His character approved.

The sovereignty and immutability of His person does not make God a static principle.

Ex. K and D on Genesis 18

Ex. Sovereignty of a good parent- Kid asked to go to the park after supper on a summer night. You are exhausted from work, but the kid has been a good kid and you are moved by his persistence and go to the park. In that since you changed your plan but not your character or the goals for the family. He knew I always was willing to give him good things. His faith in my "goodness" as a loving father moved me to actively, locally, immediately respond in love.

In the plan of God, before the world was, God decided to include His children in His plan to reach the world so some of the lost children can be saved.

Matthew 6: 6-8 " If He can just give it to us,,, then give it to us!" It is not a mechanically thing. He could answer in a minute, but He has so much more He is after in the relationship.

Ex. **Ephesians 3:16-21** If the whole point of life is to know God and grow in your relationship with God then this makes sense. John 17: 3

Ex. Do you want just stuff and a 10-year plan book from God , or do you want God just for Himself?

Sub-standard Christian life:

Just pray when I have a problem. Problem fixed; no need to pray; back to my own plan for my own happiness, and in my own way.

Ex. **Luke 17: 11-19** 10 lepers, but only one wanted more

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Ex. College student who has no time for dad, but wants money to play at college.

Son says, "No mum, no fun, your son." Dad says, "too bad, so sad, your dad.

Persistence in prayer is admired by God. Because in the process it changes you as you receive more than you asked for!

Persistence in prayer has nothing to do with forcing God to change His immutable, sovereign character, but everything to do with purifying you into Christlikeness, and Him taking action on your behalf on particular problems.

Sometimes we feel God does not want to help us, so we don't persist.

Is God Not Willing To Answer Our Prayer?

Luke 11: 5-10 Luke 18: 1-8

Final: I don't really think the problem is some catch -22 about free will and the sovereignty. We don't pray because we think we have control over things and can muscle our way through life and get what we want on our own. It is odd, that when we get what we want we then realize it was not what we wanted. Or, getting what we want; now being miserable, think we should just move on to something else we think will make us happy.

It is one thing to realize you are the donkey pulling the cart and moving forward because the driver has a carrot in front of you. It is really foolish to hitch yourself to another cart and chase a new carrot.

The answer to life is to walk with Christ. The answers you seek are wrapped in a person. So much better to be shown, hands on, how to do something, than to merely have instructions spoken to you.

Ex. **"13 Things That Will absolutely Destroy Your Happiness"** Renee Ellis

1. Having unrealistic expectations
2. Constantly comparing
3. Grief over the loss of a person
4. Worry
5. Feeling shame
6. Financial problems

7. Bad health
8. Anxiety
9. Dwelling on the past
10. Bad upbringing
11. Trying to have control over everything
12. Jealousy and envy
13. Feeling rejection

(The article said the solution was to just do things differently; as if it was so easy to change!
What a big, fat lie. There is no power to change, at a deep level without Christ!)

Get in a serious relationship with Jesus Christ and you will see changes! He does it personally.

Ex. John 1: 1-3, 14, 17-18. | John 1: 1-4 Hebrews 2: 17-18, 4:14-16

Not just verses about the character of Jesus, but also His ability to draw close and guide us through any problem. We fall so much in love with Him that the things in the 13 list above start to fade.