

Q & A: What Does the Bible Say?

Does Prayer Change Things?

1 John 5:13-15

United Community Church

Ron Burks, 2-12-23

The question, “Can I change God’s mind through prayer?” implies that I want God to change His mind about what is happening in my life. The question should be, “Does Prayer Change Things?” Ultimately, any changes God chooses to make are in alignment with His will for my life. His will is to change my heart, mind, and desire to follow Christ and let Him conform me into His image. It is more about Christ transforming my life than it is about changing my circumstances.

Four Unchangeable Axioms We Must Follow

1. God has a sovereign right to do as He pleases with my life consistent with His character and nature. He cannot contradict His character and nature.
2. God works out everything in a Christ follower’s life according to His purpose.
3. God expects Christ followers to respond to everything that happens in his/her life in a way that brings Him glory.
4. Everything God does or allows to happen in your life is the result of His love for you.

Does Prayer Change Things?

1. Based on axiom 1, God has a sovereign will and a permissive will. His permissive will cannot usurp or override His sovereign will. Therefore, God can change His permissive will if it does not override His sovereign will.
2. Based on axiom 2, God works out everything in my life whether good or evil to bring Him glory when I yield my heart and life to Him.
3. Based on axiom 3, God expects me to respond to everything that happens in a way that brings Him glory.
4. Based on axiom 4, Every blessing God gives, or trial He allows is because of His great love for me.

How do I Pray for Change?

- God, change my mind to seek and serve You in every area of my life
- God, change my heart to love people unconditionally and look for ways to lead them to follow You
- God, change my desire to keep You at the center of my heart and life

BOTTOM LINE

God’s love offers you a life of joy and peace as you walk with Him daily and let Him transform your heart, mind, and soul.