

If God is Sovereign, Why Pray?

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God not only ordains the ends of the universe, but He also ordains the _____ to those ends.

God is sovereignly unfolding His plan of salvation, and part of the way He works out His plan of redemption is through the _____ of the Word. God brings the increase, but He uses that means for His end.

In the same way, God works in and through the _____ of His people.

Does prayer change God's mind? _____

God has plans that come from His perfect knowledge, perfect _____, and His total righteousness and integrity. We aren't God's guidance counselor. What kind of God would we have if we could persuade Him to believe that His first plan wasn't a good one? Or if we could give Him information that He lacked before we talked to Him?

Matthew 6:8 – God knows what you need before you ask Him. He still wants us to come and tell Him what we need. This is for *our* _____.

So, our prayer doesn't change God's mind because He knew what you were going to pray before you prayed.

Does prayer change things? Does prayer have impact on what comes to pass? _____

James 5:13-18 –

James is the only New Testament book that fits the genre of *wisdom literature*. Sometimes God's answer to prayer is "no". God does answer positively at other times, though, and James is writing to encourage his readers to not miss out on the opportunity to be a part of the means God uses to answer prayer.

The "faith healing" theology is a gross distortion of the total picture of what prayer is supposed to be and do in the Bible.

It is *not* a lack of faith to pray "if it be God's will". We have Jesus' example in Gethsemane on how to pray, and He says "if it be Your will...", but then He adds, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done."

Deo volente = God _____

Faith is, in essence, _____. A prayer of faith is one that trusts God for the outcome, even if He says "no".

When we're praying, we need to remember Whose will is _____.

James says the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails _____. Prayer *does* change things!

Fervency = praying with _____

The passion in our prayers should match the severity of the situation.

Luke 18:1-8 – The Parable of the Unjust Judge

If a corrupt judge will sometimes hear the prayer of someone, *how much more* will the true judge of heaven and earth who has no corruption in Him at all, hear your prayers?

The purpose of this parable (Luke 18:1) was to teach the disciples that they should pray and not _____ (lose heart).

If we lose heart, it is possible that we have been lax in our prayers. There is a corollary between prayer and courage, and prayer and _____.

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges that God has given His people. He cares and He listens!