

Does Prayer Change God's Mind?

February 6, 2022

Scriptures: Exodus 32:1-12

Bottom Line: See the need, believe the promise, release His power

Sovereignty - God is in absolute control with absolute power

"If God knows all things, knows the beginning and the end, He's never caught off guard, His plans are unchangeable and unstoppable, what role or effect do our prayers have on the plans of God?"

Exodus 32:1-12 — "Your People"

- God tells Moses what's happening in the camp
- Moses asks God to relent with His own promise
- God places Moses in a situation where he will have influence through his prayers

Three Truths to Hold in Tension (And Hurt Your Brain)

- God's purposes are unchanging
- God's plans are unfolding
- Our prayers are instrumental

What Can I Do?

- Embrace the mystery
- Keep praying
- Be the answer to someone's prayers

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one or more of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Read **Exodus 7:14-21; 8:16-19; 14:21-28**
 - a. What do you notice about the interaction between God and Moses/Aaron? Who does what?
 - b. What do you think would have happened if Moses or Aaron didn't do as God directed them?
 - c. What does this partnership between God and His people tell you about the way that God acts through our prayers and actions?
3. Where are you drawn to love our city?
4. When have you felt directed by the Holy Spirit recently?
5. What encourages you or motivates you to pray?