

On Prayer

By Kay Mauser

Prayer: to ask or beseech; an earnest request; entreaty; supplication (usually to a deity).

Do prayers work and if so how? When we pray, does a God hear our prayers and answer them, or do we unconsciously put in motion the necessary mechanism to effect a change?

Let's take an example: A person wants a certain job. He prays to God, he studies, he prays, he begins seeking out people who can help secure the job, he prays, he succeeds. Did God answer the prayer or did he help himself?

A person is ill. He prays, he sees a doctor, he prays, he changes his lifestyle, his diet, and enjoys good health. Has God answered his prayers or has he helped himself?

Is this why we often hear the saying, "God helps those who help themselves"?

Do I pray? Yes. Does prayer help? Yes. But how it works or why is a mystery to me.

One particular prayer really has me stumped. The theory goes like this, if we accept the fact that God is, should we not thank Him for everything we have, even adversity? But instead of saying "Thank you for this adversity," we say "Thank you" for the way we want the situation to be.

I couldn't wait to try it out. I had a notorious witch for a supervisor. So, "Thank you Lord for an understanding supervisor." Did she change or did I?

My neighbor was an old biddy. "Thank you Lord for the sweet old lady who lives next door." What happened to change her disposition, almost overnight? Had I begun to understand her? I hadn't changed ... or had I? But God sure was working overtime.

"Thank you God for this beautiful rain." The sky didn't clear, but I didn't seem to mind.

Unlike the other examples I gave you, I can see no reason for the change in the people and things I mentioned. I had not set the stage for them to change. I didn't let them know I was praying for them.

I hadn't changed ... or had I?