

Something to Pray About

August 2012 – Cindy Sears

And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” —John 11: 41b, 42 NKJV

Why Prayer Works

We believe that God is sovereign. This means that He reigns over all and that nothing happens that He has not permitted or planned to happen. So, what good does praying do? If God has already decided what is going to be, why do we pray?

In my Sunday school class’s study of the Trinity, I discovered why prayer can work, even though God is sovereign over all. According to the verse above from John 11, the Father always hears the requests of the Son—and guess who is our mediator between God and man? That’s right, Jesus. The Son was always with the Father and Holy Spirit. They have always been in conversation. The Father loves the Son. The Son loves the Father. They have perfect love and perfect communication with one another (along with the Holy Spirit). Because of this eternal conversation, the Father has left room in His plans for input from His Son. In Christ, we are adopted sons and daughters of the Father. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father through the Son—and the Father always hears the Son. We, as Christians, have been invited to join the conversation going on eternally within the Trinity. What a privilege!

What does this mean? It means that as adopted sons and daughters in Christ, enabled by the Holy Spirit, we can talk to God the Father and make our requests known to Him as if we were His Only Son, Jesus the Christ. We are clothed in the Son’s righteousness and accepted as part of the Trinity—the family of God.

All of Jesus’s prayers during His ministry on earth were answered with a resounding “yes.” He gave sight to the blind, He made the lame walk, He prepared bread and fish practically from nothing for thousands to eat, and He raised the dead. When we pray in His name, may we not expect the same answer? Is there a catch—a limit to this praying business? The only limit is “the will of the Father.”

Consider the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” (Matthew 26:39b NKJV) Wasn’t the answer to this prayer a resounding “no?” But notice that Jesus prays with the conditional conjunction “if” in this prayer. He also specifically says “not as I will, but as You will.” The Son loved the Father, and because of that love He always sought to do the will of the Father—not His own will. (See John 5:30)

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Let us keep in mind that Jesus, the incarnated Son of God, was wholly Man as well as wholly God. His humanity was afraid of what was to come. It is very likely that Jesus had seen people crucified during His sojourn in Israel, because the Romans were always crucifying someone as a means of controlling the people. As God, Jesus knew what was coming; as Man, He recoiled from the horror of it. In His humanity, Jesus cried to the Father to be relieved of the burden. The Father, in His love and sovereignty, gave the best answer He could by sending an

angel to strengthen Him for the task ahead. (See Luke 22:43) For the Father knew that if Jesus did not carry out His mission, then the Son of God would regret forever—eternally—that He had failed to do the will of the Father; and also, that no one would be saved from the wrath of God—all would be lost forever. “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:17) “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby **we must be saved**.” (Acts 4:12 KJV)

So, let’s pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Make your requests known in prayer (see Philippians 4:16)—and the Holy Spirit, which dwells in you and knows the will of the Father and what you truly need, will ask of the Son, who will ask of the Father; and the Son—and you—will receive that resounding answer, “yes!” Amen!