

## PRAYER LESSON 137

### Does Prayer Change God?

You may have seen the little wall plaque that says, “Prayer Changes Things.” But is it true? Does prayer really make any difference? Scientific studies have been done with hospital patients, where some are prayed for and others are not. Those who are prayed for seem to do better and recover sooner than those who are not prayed for. Is this proof that prayer has power to make changes.

It is true that change occurs when one has a personal relationship with the Almighty and prayer is an important part of that relationship. However, prayer is more about God than it is about us, as prayer is about a relationship and not, first of all, about change. So, against this background, we ask the question, “Does prayer change God?”

You may recall the story of King Hezekiah found in the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings. There God, through the prophet Isaiah, tells Hezekiah that he is going to die. Hezekiah prays to God and God gives him 15 more years of life. Did God change his mind as a result of Hezekiah’s prayer?

God said through the prophet in Malachi 3:6 **"I the LORD do not change.** And the writer to the Hebrews says in Hebrews 13:8 **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** So, does prayer change God’s mind? Well, it seems to. We don’t know how God’s sovereignty works relative to our prayers, God never told us. Yet, when we pray God acts in response. He may have had his response in mind all along, but waited until we prayed.

Jesus says over and over that we should ask God. That’s all we need to know. We ask and God hears and answers. How this fits with his sovereignty, I guess we don’t need to know.