

PRAYER LESSON 138

Does Prayer Change Circumstances?

Last time I asked the question, “Does prayer change God?” My answer was, “Maybe, at least it seems like it.” Another question we might ask is, “Does prayer change circumstances?” James says in James 5:16 that **The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.** Then he follows that with the example of Elijah who, he says, **was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.**

Sceptics might say that was a mere coincidence, but I think not. Circumstances reflect God’s answers to our prayers. They are God’s way of speaking his care for us. Remember God is Almighty God and through his power and providence he provides for us and fulfills his purposes through us.

If God did not respond to our prayers and alter our circumstances, we would be living a truly hopeless existence. If God does not change circumstances, then prayer becomes absurd. I believe God does respond to circumstances and I think I have proof.

A few months ago my friend was scheduled to have surgery on her foot. She had a serious infection that refused to respond to treatment. The plan was to remove several toes and part of her foot. Several days before the surgery she called me and others for prayer as she was quite apprehensive about this surgery. She woke up the day of the surgery and the infection was gone. No more swelling, no more redness, no need for surgery. She went to her doctor who could not explain the quick recovery, other than to say it was a miracle.

So can prayer change circumstances? You bet it can. Just ask Nadia!