

Do my prayers affect GOD? (Or could I change God's mind with my prayers?)

Good evening! My talk is in two parts. The 2nd part is something you will love to do in the computer. Who loves to Google? All of you, eh! I'll tell you more about that right after my main topic for tonight, which is no longer new to you guys! You and I have been doing this since we were able to speak...saying our **Prayers**. We pray for a lot of things, right? It is the only way to access the Seat of Power of God. Do you still remember the "**PASSWORD**" that I gave you to access Heaven? **J*E*S*U*S** is the password! "**Whatever you ask in my name, I will do**" (John 14:13).

St. Paul while in prison said this wonderful **advice** in his letter to the Philippians: "**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to GOD**" (Chapter 4, verse 6) "**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**" (verse 7). This is the conviction of the evangelist Paul! That prayer will instill the **peace** within that comes not from this world to satisfy even the deepest desire of our being. Not only that, it focuses our hearts and minds toward the righteous path set forth by God leading to the fulfillment of our prayer. Lord Alfred Tennyson, a poet laureate in 1850 UK, has this famous quote about prayer: "**more things are wrought by prayers than this world dreams of.**"

Do you know that a prayerful life will lead to Holiness? And, what do you think is the secret to becoming a Saint? It's **unceasing prayer**, immersing your whole being to the truth of God's promise. Blessed **Mother Teresa of Calcutta** vividly described in her diary how she had lost her faith at times but only through **prayer** which sustains her 'till the end. In essence, prayer is our spiritual life-line to God as food is to our physical well-being. No one in this world could walk righteously without praying. Have you ever tried letting a day go-by without praying? **Scary!!!** Haven't you notice that the world seems in turmoil before you pray and it gradually dissipate after you pray?

But do my prayers have an effect on God? To say it in another way - could I change God's mind by my prayers? But before we go into that, what do you think **PRAYER** is?

- a conversation with God
- a petition to do the impossible
- a source of love, joy, peace, and all the fruits of the spirit
- a connection to the source of power
- an affirmation of belief
- a thanksgiving to God
- a source of strength
- a Christian ritual

Do my prayers affect GOD? (Or could I change God's mind with my prayers?)

+Prayer changes a person+

Pope Benedict XVI book entitled Jesus of Nazareth wrote "...**what prayer really is - being in silent inward communion with GOD**" (page 130). The coming together of two great mysteries: man's **free will** and **God's will**. Man's abiding will to the Almighty will of the Father infused to **create** in us a **willing being** to the work of God. Prayer actually **transforms** a person into becoming Christ-like, acquiring the character of His Beloved Son, to continue the work of **salvation**. What a phenomenon! This is happening everyday in the life of every Christian, in his faithful quest for God's help through prayer. Its man coming into terms with God, knowing and trusting to His divine will in all areas of life. But how could one attain this height in praying?

- **First of all, we must have strong belief in our God.** Do you know that the Apostles' Creed (I believe in God...) is also the guiding principle of our Christian brothers in their faith journey? They also recite the Apostles' Creed during Sunday service as we do. But what really matters is re-living the life that **Jesus** lived. A life of love! A life given up for love! A life with God! Just the size of a '**mustard seed**' is what Jesus is asking us to have ... **faith**.
- **And, we must pray with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.** In Matthew 22:37, Jesus' has given us the greatest commandment of all: loving the Lord God above our whole being. The best way to show this kind of love for our God is by **praying**. Whenever we pray, we **nurture** the deepest desire of our being for our Creator: enkindling the *fire of love* in every Christian's heart.

+but God remains+

How about God? God never changes! God as creator knows the bits and pieces of our creation. Like manufacturers of computer, say Hewlett Packard, they know the limitation as well as the strength of their product. That must be the main reason for a manufacturer's warranty. And to make sure that the computer would work well, they have anticipated all the **FAQ** - Frequently Asked Questions in their manual of operation. Same with our loving Creator, God knows everything in us: our giftedness and lack of it, the number of our hair from head to foot; where we are right now, where we could be in the future, and even where we were before our birth. And, the very purpose of our creation: to be part in the work of **salvation**, which is the only thing that **pleases** God.

Do my prayers affect GOD? (Or could I change God's mind with my prayers?)

God had long been answered all the **FAP** - Frequently Asked in Prayer. Since individual prayer is unique, God's response is tailor made for each and everyone. Let's say that you wanted so badly to get an "A" in your Math quiz on Monday. Naturally, you will pray to God tonight (Saturday). But even before you've finished praying, a pathway to your goal had already been prepared. The only thing that is preventing you from getting that mark is choosing to do something else: watching TV, playing games at the computer, rather than being busy reviewing your notes in Math. Remember: God has already laid down everything for us; we just have to act in communion with Him to make it happen. Let us pray continually for one another that will form a chain of prayers like the **ROSARY** to help each other in his or her faith journey towards God through Christ Jesus ... **Amen!**

Now, the much awaited part of my talk. How do you like to have an instant answer to all your queries about our faith? Nowadays school assignments and report can now be searched using all kinds of search engine via the internet, right? You have Google, Yahoo, and MSN to start with. There's even various links from those search engines. But for Christian's teachings, I would recommend that you go to our own website (www.cmpcommunity.com) with links to various faith-based websites.

In addition, I want you to surf www.holyspiritinteractive.net as I've been getting good Catholic teachings from this website. They have HIS Youth and HIS Kids, which are awesome sources of faith formation that cater especially to the needs of young adults like you. I'll pass this printed copy around and if you're interested, please sign up with your email address at the back page so I may email this link to you. Better yet, I'll make arrangement to include this link at our own website. That's it! God bless everyone! Thank you and good night.