

# Prayer

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## 1. Unanswered prayers?

- I don't like the words unanswered prayers
- Jesus gives us encouragement that we are heard – Matthew 7:7-8
- When we don't get the answer that we want we often give up
- Luke 8:1-8
- A lot of times we need perseverance in prayer
- All of our prayers are answered, they just might not be answered when we want or how we want
- We must continually ask and seek him – Ephesians 3:20
- Good fathers don't always say yes
- Regardless of what his answers are we are to continually come to him
- Often times when we think we have an unanswered prayer it's because he hasn't answered it in the way that we wanted.
- There is no prayer left unanswered – James 4:3

**“Nothing is better adapted to excite us to prayer than a full conviction that we shall be heard.” – John Calvin**

## 2. What is intercessory prayer?

- This is someone else praying for you
- When you ask someone for prayer this is what we are doing
- We are asking them to intercede on our behalf
- When you pray for someone else you are doing this

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- This is **different** than Catholicism's intercession

### 3. Does prayer change Gods mind?

- The whole reason we pray is because God is sovereign

- Exodus 32:11

- Moses **sought** the Lord on behalf of the Israelites

- God is the same and doesn't change – Hebrews 13:8

- Prayer **doesn't** change the nature of God

- To change Gods mind would mean that God hasn't made everything perfect

- This means for all of eternity God doesn't change

- We **cannot** change Gods mind

- We pray because it does move the hand of God

- God is **physically** doing something in response to prayer

- Prayer is not an afterthought or a plan b in Gods eyes

- Instead of using prayer as a spare tire let's use it as a steering wheel

- God has **never** changed his mind from the foundation of the world

**"All that God does is for His glory first and for our benefit second. We pray because God commands us to pray, because it glorifies Him, and because it benefits us." –**

**R.C. Sproul**