

Answers To Prayer in Ten Minutes! YEP!

The study leader in our adult Sunday school class was explaining how she led devotions every morning with her nursing students in the hospital in which she teaches. She explained that although one of her students was not a Christian, this student was really starting to get into the daily prayer, and mentioned to the class that after she prayed, she expected God to answer within ten minutes.

The teacher told of how the Christian students began looking at each other with wide eyes and hands over their mouths trying to stifle their shock and amusement. And, of course, the same reaction happened among the members of the Sunday school class when the teacher told the story to us. Even me, although I should have known better.

But think about it- God answering in ten minutes. Why not?

The student's statement didn't sound so outlandish when I later realized that I'd been doing that very thing for about thirty years on a clockwork basis. Here's how I do it.

In the big black book they read from every Sunday around here, a fella named James said, "you ask and receive not because you ask amiss (in error)...KJV Jam 4:3. A different way of saying that *might be* that God can't give a good answer to a bad question. No answer is better than a bad answer, so that's what we often get.

Some the prayers and questions we ask may even border on, "Show me what You want me to do with the rest of my life, God, and I'll do it. No mountain is too high, no sea too wide, yada, yada, yada".

You see, we're often looking for the BIG QUICK ANSWER, an answer so big that it would fill up the sky. An answer so plain that all who would simply look up could understand and immediately put the process into action. An answer so easy that even a caveman could understand it.

Here's why we miss God's answer: we look in the wrong direction much of the time. And even if God DID write the answer across the sky, we'd probably ask for a replay on it.

Instead of trying to come up with a "Silver Bullet" prayer that covers everything, ask God to draw an "X" on the ground right where He wants your next footstep to

go. Believe me when I say that the “X” will always be an easy step away, even if you wanted it to be a giant step or a leap of faith.

The conversation might go like this:

Us: “God, I got this really big problem. Make it easy for me and write the answer across the sky. Whatever it is, I’ll do it.”

God: “I drew an “X” on the ground right in front of you. Take that first step.”

Us: “God, this seems like a pretty silly step. It’s too easy. How is this gonna help anything?”

God: “Just do it.”

Us: “Look, there’s gotta be something else, even if it is more difficult.”

God: “If you won’t do something easy, what makes you think you’ll do something difficult? Prove it; put your foot on the “X”.

US: “It looks like it’s backwards, but nothing else is working.”

God: “Take the first step, and then ask for the next step. Take that one and the ones that follow. Soon you’ll be right where you need to be, and at just the right time.”

Step. Bulbs light up. Angels sing! God smiles.

ARTICLE REPLAY A-B-C

ASK Don't try to come up with a home run prayer; keep it

simple- like this: God, please show me ONE THING that I need to know about this situation. Just one thing.

BELIEVE Go do something else for a while; anything else. Crazy as it may seem, I often ask God a question and then go play computer solitaire for a while. Listening to calming music also works well.

You've asked (God), so now it's His/Her problem. God can probably figure this out without our help. Stay out of the way.

CALM DOWN and LISTEN In just a few minutes there'll be a unique and wonderful voice that zips between your ears. You'll know because it's just plain different. Follow it, then ask for the *NEXT* step after you've accomplished that.

You can do this all day long, day after day. That's how I wrote this guide, the book, "What God Can't Do," and all the sermons and articles I ever wrote that were worth anything.