

## Does God Answer Prayers?

While living in Mississippi, everyone knows that once the summer months come rain gets harder to come by. A few years ago, we had a particularly dry end of spring and early summer, with very little rain in our corner of Mississippi. It had been highly bemoaned by many people that the lack of rain is starting to ruin the crops because the farmers and gardeners could keep enough water in the soil. Our garden was no exception.

My sons had been helping in the garden every day that spring. One week, my oldest son began praying with every prayer that God would send rain for our garden. Mind you, this is with a weather forecast that had no real chance of rain coming for the next week and a half. But undeterred, my son continued to pray for rain at every meal, every prayer before bed, and every other occasion he thought of it during the day.

By the middle of the week something happened. One day when there was to be no rain suddenly had a thirty percent chance, then fifty, then eighty. That night we had some thunderstorms roll through and give us a nice dousing rain for about an hour. The next night, we received the same thing. The next day, the thunder rolled, and the rain came yet again. My son also did not cease to thank God for the rain in every prayer once it began.

As with so many things kids do, there is a lesson here for the adults. James said, “The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (Jam. 5:16). If God will hear the prayers of the righteous man, what about the innocent child who has no sin to be held to their charge but thoroughly believes in God and what he can do? I believe I have seen the answer. It is a lesson that many Christians need to learn. Many times, the adults who should know better do not pray for the things that are needed because we have accepted, “that’s just the way it is around here.” We forget the One who created all, and controls all. The One who waits to help those who will ask of him with those things which are needed.

Do we really believe, when we pray, that God will answer our prayers in the way that we need it? Do we believe it enough to pray continuously without wavering for the needs of our lives? Or have we already decided which prayers God will answer and which ones aren’t worth the time and effort?

God does answer prayers. He doesn’t answer them all in the same way at the same time, but he does answer them. May we always put our faith in him, remembering who he is and what he has said he will do, and not in what we think will happen, “whether we pray or not.” ~~*Adam Cozort*