



A WAY GOD WORKS: PRAYER SCENARIOS

- God is not simply a “cosmic vending machine”; put in your request and get what you want.
- God is more like a vital energy promoting life.
- A Divine response may be in proportion to the human will.

HERE ARE SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

2 Chronicles 20. King Jehoshaphat of Judah -- threatened by a coalition of armies at his border -- prayed for divine deliverance before the people. His prayer was answered only when he and his army on the border did as God directed and did not engage the enemy army. It fell apart before them.

Job 42. Job’s initial devotion – “God gave and God took away. Blessed be the Name of the LORD!” (Job 1:21) – turned to complaint – “I vow by the living God Who took away my rights, by the Almighty, Who has embittered my soul, while I live, I will not speak evil, or lies” (Job 27:2-4). He got relief from his suffering (Job 42:12-16) only when he acknowledged his humility before God, -- “I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance” (Job 42:6); he was rewarded with twice what he had

Matthew 13:58. Jesus in his own hometown “did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.”

Mark 14:36. Only after Jesus yielded himself completely to the will of God the Father was the resurrection and redemption of mankind accomplished (Mark 9:31).

James 4:2-3. “The reason you don’t have what you want is that you don’t ask God for it. And even when you do ask, you don’t get it because your whole motive is wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure.”

PRAYER IS A RELATIONSHIP. THE MORE INTIMATE THE RELATIONSHIP, BY BEING AND ACTING WITH THE SAME MIND-SET AS JESUS CHRIST, THE MORE LIKELY PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED.

● One’s prayer relationship with the Divine is deepened by how much time there is together learning about each other – Who God is through His Word, and who we are through reflection and living in a faith community, like a Christian congregation where people care about each other.

● The prayer relationship is the way to unimaginable results “according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).