**DOES PRAYER REALLLY CHANGE THINGS?**

**Stormie Omartian**

When I am doing an interview - or speaking at an event - and I talk with people afterwards, the question I am most often asked is, surprisingly, “Does prayer really change things?” That always surprises me because I have spent my life writing or speaking about how much prayer in the name of Jesus has changed my life and the lives of others whom I have prayed for, either alone or in a group of like-minded believers.

I think when people ask me that, what they really mean is “Can my prayer really change things for me?” And I get that perspective. Either way, my quick answer is “Yes it can!” The power of prayer in Jesus’ name can save you, deliver you, heal you, and transform your life.

It can get you through the tough times and help you make right decisions. It can keep you on the path God has for you so you can become all God made you to be and do all He created you to do.

None of us wants to ever feel like we are being imprisoned by our circumstances or chained down by our own limitations. We want to be free of our fears so we can live an extraordinary

life of peace, joy, fulfillment, hope and purpose. A life where all things are possible What we want is to break out of any self-defeating habits and be able to transcend ourselves and our circumstances. We want to be a part of something greater than ourselves. We want to be connected to what God is doing on the earth in a way that bears fruit for His kingdom. We want a sense of purpose for our lives.

We want it all! All God has for us. And we should not feel guilty about that, because that is what God wants for us too. That is what God wants for you!

God wants you to have a purposed-filled life of power-filled life-changing prayer. And that can only happen when you enter into a close relationship with Him. A relationship that is close enough to know Him intimately and communicate your whole heart to Him. It is close enough

to allow the knowledge of who He really is to define who you really are. It is close enough to

love Him with all of your heart and then let Him love you with all of His. When you develop a relationship with God that close, you will begin to sense His presence with you so powerfully that you cannot wait to be in His presence again. And that is a glorious way to feel. It is the way God wants us to feel about Him. All the time!

Your next question may be, “How do you develop that kind of love for God? The first step is to start a relationship with God by receiving His Son, Jesus, and then spend the rest of your life trying to fathom love so great that He would willingly lay down His life just so you could always be close to God.

The next step is to read His story – the Bible. It reveals who His is. It tells of His plan for our lives. It speaks of His great love for us that lasts forever. The next step it to pray. My definition of prayer is simply communicating with God. Far too often prayer becomes a complex issue with people. They can be intimidated by it and fear they cannot do it well enough, or right enough, or long enough, or eloquently enough. They are afraid their prayers won’t be heard because they themselves are not good enough or knowledgeable enough.

It has been my goal to dispel that kind of intimidation and make prayer accessible to everyone. But we must remember that prayer is not telling God what to do. He knows what to do. He wants to know that you seek to be in His presence. The most amazing thing about that is in His presence things change. Always! Hearts change. Minds change. Attitudes change. Lives change. You can count on it.

Every time you pray to God, something changes in you or your circumstances. It is impossible to touch the presence of God and there not be change. That’s because you are coming in contact with all that God is, and that will affect all that you are. That’s why prayer changes things. God is all about changing us, because He wants us to become more like Him. And we become more like Him whenever we spend time with Him.

One of the most wonderful things about God is that He shares Himself with us. He gives us a way to do and be what we could not do and be on our own. 2 Peter 1:3-4 says that “His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life.” It says that we have been given “Great and precious promises” that through these we may be “partakers of His divine nature”. Who among us doesn’t need that every day?

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