



# Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

## Evan Almighty (PGC 3 of 3: Be Careful What You Pray For)

### Media Information

Rating:

PG

Year:

2007

Director:

Tom Shadyac

Stars:

Steve Carrell

Morgan Freeman

John Goodman

### Clip Description

Clip Time: 59:43 - 1:03:50

Evan Baxter is building an ark because God told him to. His wife has to deal with it:

Joan (Evan's Wife): "My husband says that God told him to do it. What do you do with that?"

God: "Sounds like an opportunity. Let me ask you something. If someone prays for patience, you think God gives them patience? Or opportunities to be patient?"

### Related

#### Scripture:

Matthew 7:7-8

Philippians 4:5-7

#### Catechism:

#2629

#2735-6

### Faith Connection

I often pray for things and don't realize that the chance to have those things are right in front of me; I often just don't want to do the work. This clip seems a wonderful explanation of the expression: "God helps those who help themselves." It used to baffle me, like 'if you're helping yourself how is God doing anything?' but by changing your perspective on answers to prayer to involve providing opportunities (rather than easy quick fixes), then the expression works: God helps by providing the chance to help yourself. And generally isn't that how life works? If we need money, the solution rarely involves finding a bag full of it but in getting that amazing new job that seemed to fall out of the sky. And yet, it's up to us to take the job and do well with it. When we're lonely, we have to be open to connecting with new people - the new people God sends our direction. Thus, when we struggle we need to look for how God is giving us chances to overcome it.

### Discussion Questions

1. What sorts of things do you pray for?
2. How do you hope those prayers will be answered?
3. What's your response to what this clip says about answering prayers?
4. What's the difference between what's right and wrong to pray for?
5. Have you ever considered whether what you're praying for is right?

