DOES PRAYER REALLY WORK?
LUKE 18:1-5 / 3-24-21 / WED

I. FIRST, NOT EVERY PRAYER IS ANSWERED THE WAY WE WANT OR EXPECT.

A. Several ways God responds to our prayers.
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Wait.
   4. I’ve got something different or even better planned for you.
   5. “You’ve got to be kidding.”

B. Consider that even people in the Bible didn’t get all that they prayed for.
   1. David’s prayer wasn’t answered-2 Samuel 12:16.
   2. Paul asked God to remove his thorn in the flesh but God told him this--
      2 Corinthians 12:9.
   3. Our prayers aren’t always answered or the way we want.

II. SECOND, THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER ISN’T TO WEAR GOD DOWN SO HE WILL ANSWER US


B. Jesus isn’t saying God is like this judge. It’s just the opposite.

III. THIRD, PRAYER HELPS US TRUST GOD MORE.

A. Since we cannot manipulate God, we must trust him to do what’s right--
   Genesis 18:25—“…Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
   1. After all, we trust God to save us, don’t we?
   2. Then we should also trust Him to answer our prayers in just the right way.
B. When we trust God with our prayers keep two things in mind.

1. Sometimes God gives us what we really need, not what we ask for or want.

2. Sometimes, though, God gives us something better than we ask for.