DOES PRAYING REALLY DO ANY GOOD?
LUKE 18:1-5 / 6-10-20 / WED

I. FIRST, WE NEED TO KNOW THAT NOT EVERY PRAYER IS ANSWERED.

A. David’s prayer wasn’t answered—2 Samuel 12:16.


C. All of Jesus’ prayers weren’t answered—Luke 22:42.

D. Why doesn’t God answer all our prayers?
   2. Sometimes because God gives us what we need and not what we want—Matt. 7:11.
   3. Sometimes it’s not the right time—Ps.27:14.
   4. Sometimes because of unconfessed sin—1Peter 3:7.
   5. Sometimes because we aren’t asking in faith—James 1:5-8.
   6. Sometimes because we have the wrong motive—James 4:3.
   7. Sometimes because God says no.
   8. Sometimes because of more that one of the above answers.

II. SECOND, WE NEED TO KNOW THAT PRAYER DOESN’T CHANGE GOD’S MIND.

A. In one sense, God is Sovereign and does not change—Num.23:19.

B. If God does not change His mind why do some verses seem to indicate that He does?—Exo.32:14 & 32:34-35.

C. If God does not change His mind why should we bother praying at all? One purpose of prayer is to change us—Jonah 3:4 & 3:6-10.
III. THIRD, WE NEED TO KNOW THAT PRAYER HELPS US TRUST GOD MORE.

A. Since we can’t manipulate God to change His mind, we must trust Him to always do the right thing even if it’s not what we want—Gen 18:25.

   **Genesis 18:25**
   …Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

B. What are the benefits of trusting God even if He doesn’t answer our prayers?

   1. We can trust God when we don’t know what we should pray for—Pro. 3:5-6.

   2. We can trust God to always look out for our best interests even if we don’t understand what He is doing—Romans 8:28.