

GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS... For His Son's sake!

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'... and whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, that will I do: that the Father may be glorified in the Son.' John 14:13

I used to think that when God answers prayers, He does so mainly because I asked. The Bible verse quoted above however sheds light on why God answers prayers. He does so for His own sake! Now, to me that is a major discovery. I remember hearing prayers in the traditional churches end in ... 'for the sake of your son Jesus, Amen'. And I used to think, but the Bible says pray in the name of Jesus and not for the sake of Jesus.

God delights in meeting our needs, and in several places in the Bible, He invites us to ask. Ask and you shall receive Matthew records Jesus as saying. What Mathew did



not add is Ask and you shall receive...

because God wants to be glorified.

Permit me if I sound a little off here, but

does it not look like answering your prayer is a way for God to be glorified?

Oh, boy, bring on the prayers then, let's

fuel God's glory-vehicle with the gas of prayers.

My prayers do not tire God. They don't make Him weary. A closer look at this short passage reveals something deeper 'That the father might be glorified in the Son'. Let's go a little slower now to understand this. God does not just want to be glorified; He wants to be glorified in the Son. It sounds like He wants to show Jesus off to whoever is watching, He wants to say 'oi, mate, that's my Boy'. A good coach is shown off when his team wins. Jose Mourinho is known to take over the pitch whenever his team lifts a trophy because their winning brings him glory, it upgrades his CV. In the same vein, God shows off Jesus when prayers made in Jesus' name are answered.

The New Testament informs us that the name of Jesus is the key that opens the door to answered prayers. Jesus Himself said whatever you ask in my name. That is, whatever you ask the father fully acknowledging me as the middle man between you and the father. Whatever you ask the father in my character. Whenever you come to the father acknowledging that I paved the way for you to reach Him. Whatever you ask the father in my authority. He then goes on to say 'that I will do'. Some Bible versions put it as 'that the father will do'. There is no conflict here because Jesus and the father are one!

Isn't it beautiful to know that when we pray, we give the father an opportunity to show Himself off to the world by answering our prayer? Answered prayers are effective means of evangelism.

Let's say I need to travel from work in London to Glasgow. Having no transportation fare, I ask God to provide for me so I can make the journey. A few minutes later, a guy walks into the office, informs my colleagues and I that he has a two-way ticket to Glasgow but is no more in need of it and so is looking to give it away or bin it. Assuming that my colleagues heard me pray to God earlier for a ticket, what do you think their reaction would be? Of course, they will reverence God, they will give Him glory!

Jesus is God's master plan to restore His people to Himself, and that includes you. In prayer God gives us the opportunity to partner with Him in bringing glory to Jesus, in showing off Christ to the world, thereby bringing them to salvation. Prayer for me as God's child then is a win-win situation. I pray in Jesus' name, God answers and by doing so He uses my action to bring glory to Jesus His son.

Approach God in prayer today.

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