

Does God really answer prayer? - Tough Questions Series#1 The Issue of Hypocritical Christians

Response: (1) Don't _____ Jesus, the truth of Christianity, or the value of a church home simply on what a few hypocritical people say or do

#2 The Issue of Unanswered Prayer

1. "Logically, God *does exist*, and God really is out there And, we are not just praying to the wind."
2. Jesus coming into our world says that, "not only does God exist, but God loves *you*. *If God loves you, that means God is listening & He wants to* _____"
3. Prayer = any form of spiritual _____ (being in union) with God (not manipulating God to get what we want)
 - a) ACTS
 - A = adoration (praise, singing, worship...)
 - C = confession (take responsibility & saying you are sorry)
 - T = thanksgiving (be thankful for all the good that is in your life)
 - S = supplication (for other people & *then* for yourself)
 - b) Prayer is not about asking for things or manipulating God into doing our will, rather it is just about loving someone, about loving Jesus, about wanting to serve Him, & trying to be in communion with Him as best as possible.
4. God wants the _____ for you & me, just as we should want the best for God
5. God reserves the right to answer our prayers in ways that are far beyond our comprehension (Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - a) God does not have to answer our prayers in dramatic ways; God reserves the right to use any and every means at His disposal to answer that prayer
6. God will often violate the principle of _____ to answer our prayers
7. God will often not violate the principle of personal _____
8. God will not often violate the principle of _____ law
9. God will not often violate the principle of character development
10. What *does* God do when we pray?

Response: "God _____; Somehow, in God's own way, He without question, will help you, love you, comfort you, & move in ways to take care of you or the person you are praying for."

Other answers:

1. Prayer changes the heart of the person who is praying
2. Prayer changes the *mind* of the person who is praying
3. Sometimes, God changes physical circumstances
4. Prayer draws us into the general will of God
5. Prayer draws us into the specific will of God (even in the midst of human freedom, natural law, personal responsibility & character development)

1. judge 2. help 3. communion 4. best 6. free will 7. responsibility 8. natural 10. helps