

UPWARD THOUGHT

SEARCH



Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

Correspondence: Request for prayer

By Rob • May 27, 2019

I woke up at 1am this morning and had
received an email requesting a miracle for a

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family member who had been in an accident and was going to die. I wrote back saying:

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*“ You haven’t
given me much
information to go
off of. I prayed for
him, but I don’t
know the
circumstances. It is
very hard to ask
God for something*

*when you don't
have a reason to
believe that things
should be different
than they are. You
have to make a
case that his
intervention
would lead to
improvement in a
spiritual sense. If
you can make a*

*case for that I am
glad to take as
much time as is
needed, if it isn't
too late, to do all I
can. ”*

When we ask anyone to pray, we ought to understand how prayer works. If we simply say, "so and so is suffering, please pray for them" we are openly mocking God, because we have left him and his will completely out of the situation. Without sufficient detail, how can the person being asked to pray do anything except offer a

wish to God, as if he were some sort of genie?

And why would God pay any attention to a particular person above another in such a case?

Do you know why the Father responded to Jesus' attempts to heal others? It wasn't because Jesus had magical powers. It was because Jesus knew the Father's character better than his fellows, and his awareness of unseen causes enabled him to secure otherwise unseen effects. Anytime anyone does any miracle, it is based on this same exact principle. It only makes sense to ask someone to pray for something if you believe they have more awareness than you do. Even then, if you don't give them sufficient information to interact with their awareness, it is like having a factory and expecting products to be made without providing any of the necessary raw

materials. God has never, ever worked an arbitrary miracle. In every case, his actions conformed perfectly to his character, which does not change, and from which all his power derives.

Prayer is not a means of changing God's mind on something. It is a means of changing the situation so that God's perfect will lines up differently. The question that must be asked is "why would <requested action> benefit the world more than <current situation>?" God does nothing save it be for the benefit of the world. You have to have a reason, and relieving suffering is an insufficient reason.

God is much more willing for us to suffer than we realize. In order to understand miracles of

healing, one must first understand the role of suffering in the gospel and reality. There is opposition in all things, and the greatest happiness can only be experienced in conjunction with the greatest suffering. Physical suffering is one vector for fulfilling this requirement. On the micro-level, physical suffering tends to be very beneficial for:

1. Revealing limitations in the beliefs and actions of the individual and others.
2. Encouraging gratitude and humility beyond what the person would otherwise experience.

There are many other situations where physical suffering is beneficial to the individual, and God should be sought in every case, asking what possible benefit the person might experience

through continued suffering.

When is it God's will to heal someone? When it
benefits:

1. When it will lead to greater obedience and diligence in the life of the person and witnesses.

Miracles are needed to give a reason to believe the teacher, but that isn't a blank check. Type and form of miracles must be tied to the message of the teacher. Jesus healed all types of sick people to a) show he had power to forgive sins, b) show he knew the Father's will and did it.

2. When the person has already extracted all the learning they will from the situation. Note:

Alleviation of suffering is irrelevant, until or unless this is true. No one will be healed while they are still learning from the situation.

3. When the target or other people sincerely believe God and their present understanding of God suggests it is God's will.

Healing is just one type of miracle. All of God's works work in the same way, according to the same principles of cause and effect. If you are going to ask for a deviation from how things are at the moment, you need a reason, and that reason has to be based on God's character. If it isn't, your requests will be in vain.

We are told that miracles happen according to faith. One definition of faith is learning more about and from God and acting according to it. Far too often, we act like Jesus is Santa Claus and religion is just sitting on his lap making wishes. We need to get off our butts and learn

more from and about him if we want to
experience greater things from him.

I have written a lot on this subject in "Seek Ye
This Jesus," and if you haven't read it, I
encourage you to. You'll find links for free audio
and pdf versions, as well as Kindle and print
versions, in the sidebar of this blog.

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