

### *Can our prayer change a prophecy from God?*

God is in control and he wants the best for each individual who trusts in Him. If God did not deprive men of his best in his Son, then he would not withhold something from someone in genuine need. The apostle Paul wrote: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Ro 8:32.

God has a determined will and a permissive will. Certain things he has ordained to happen and they will happen and other things may or may not happen. The future is not settled. It is open. Men's actions have consequences and prayers matter.

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac (Ge 22:1–19). Abraham had a relationship with God. He grew to trust him (2 Chr. 20:7). If God was asking him to put his own son to death, then perhaps Abraham thought he had another plan (perhaps to raise Isaac again) because Isaac was to be the heir of a covenant (Gen. 17:19–21). God keeps his promises. Abraham demonstrated faith in God (Gen. 22:1–19).

God is calling out a people for his namesake (Is 25:1, Eph 2:10). Whosoever will be saved will be and whosoever won't be saved won't be (Ro 10:13). God blessed Israel with inspired prophets (1 Pet. 1:10–12) but they rejected their Messiah (Matt. 27:20–27). God is not finished with the nation Israel (Jer. 31:31–33, Rom. 11:11–20, Rev. 20:1–10).

God is merciful (1 Pet. 1:3). In times past, God changed his mind about sparing individuals because of the pleading of his people (Ge 18:16–33). It is God who grants repentance (2 Ti 2:25). He does not need anyone to get his business done in the world; but, He chooses to work through his people. A parent allows a child to draw a simple picture in crayons. He could take the paper and crayon and make a lovelier picture himself; but, he allows his child to participate because it pleases him to do so. Similarly, God allows his disciples to plant the seeds of his word so that the Holy Spirit can work in the hearts of others. Paul wrote: I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase (1 Co 3:6–7).

God allows his people to intercede for the purposes of: securing healing (Jas 5:14–16), averting judgment (Nu 14:11–21), insuring deliverance (1 Sa 7:5–9), giving blessings (Nu 6:23–27), obtaining restoration (Job 42:8–10) and encouraging repentance (Ro 10:1–4).<sup>1</sup>

Prayer is powerful (Jas 4:2, 5:14, 15) if one's heart is pure (Ps. 66:18, 19), he believes (Matt. 21:22), he prays in Jesus' name (John 14:13) and prays according to God's will (1 Jn 5:14).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 319). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> p. 500. Ibid.