

Questions and Answers

The Inquiring Heart

Introduction

Glove on hand – the glove on the surgeon's hand "did" the operation, but shouldn't get the credit.

Moving Mountains What is this all about?

Matthew 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this **mountain**, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 21:21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this **mountain**, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done."

Praying from "God down" and not just from "me up." Praying according to His greatness rather than according to my littleness.

What are some mountains worth moving? Abortion, situation in Iraq, pornography, drug abuse, purity of pastors, AIDS in Africa, Catholic church, needs in the black community, Nicaragua, etc.

In prayer we have a weapon of "mass blessing" and we should use it.

Mountains that have already moved: fall of communism, revival in South America, abolition of slavery, etc.

What are you asking God for? Peanuts or continents?

Questions you asked

1. Is it possible to "change" God's mind?

(Since God doesn't change His mind, are my prayers a waste of time?)

Did Abraham change God's mind concerning Sodom and Gomorrah? Did Mary change Jesus' mind with changing the water into wine?

Genesis 18:16-32 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt Thou indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 "Far be it from Thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from Thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" ... And He said, "I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten."

Exodus 32:9-14 "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation." 11 Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why doth Thine anger burn against Thy people ... Turn from Thy burning anger and change Thy mind about doing harm to Thy people. ... 14 So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Jeremiah 26:19 "Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and entreat the favor of the LORD, and the LORD changed His mind about the misfortune which He had pronounced against them? But we are committing a great evil against ourselves."

Hosea 11: 8-9

"How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? ... My heart is turned over within Me, All My compassions are kindled. I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath."

Amos 7:1-6

Thus the Lord God showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. ..And ... I said, "Lord God, please pardon! How can Jacob stand, For he is small?" 3 The LORD changed His mind about this. "It shall not be," said the LORD.

Jonah 3:9

"Who knows, God may turn and relent, and withdraw His burning anger so that we shall not perish?" 10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

2. How do you keep a balance between praise and petition? (Is praising God a distinct activity separate from all else—separate from requests? What constitutes excessive focus on petition during prayer?)

Seek His Face. Then work as a "team."

3. How do I keep my mind from wandering? How to stay focused.
Using music, walking, using a list, first try to find the Lord.

4. God answers according to our belief. "What about praying for the ability to believe?"

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

5. "What about waiting on an answer to prayer?"

Abraham Romans 4:16-21 In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be." 19 And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

George Mueller

It's an opportunity to demonstrate faith.

6. What about the need for multitudes to pray for a given consideration—"Is there a magic number"?

Leviticus 26:8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

7. "I know God is sovereign, but it takes the wind out of my sails when I pray for one thing and He does something else. How can we reconcile?" (example: pray for healing and the person dies).

This safety valve God has built in should be what most encourages us to proceed without fear. Would you drive a car on the interstate if you were blind? How about if it were rigged so that it was impossible to crash, hurt yourself or anyone else? Then you would step on the gas.

8. How do you reconcile suffering in the world with the prayers of believers?

Isaiah 1:4 "Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. 5 Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. 6 From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness—only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil."

9. What are the spiritual advantages to corporate prayer?

Matthew 18:19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

10. How to have meaningful, Holy Spirit led corporate prayer?