

“Does Prayer Make a Difference?”

Prayer: Connecting With God—Part 3

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Two doctrines to be held in balance relating to prayer making a difference:

1. God is unchanging.

(Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:25-27; Isaiah 46:9-10; Matthew 6:7-8)

“First, if God foreknows what will come to be and if it must happen, then prayer is in vain. Second, if everything happens according to God’s will and if what He wills is fixed and none of the things He wills can be changed, then prayer is in vain.”

Origen (185-254 AD), a theologian and biblical scholar of the early Greek Church, from Philip Yancey, *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006, p. 131.

“Immanuel Kant, for example, called it ‘an absurd and presumptuous delusion’ to think that one person’s prayer might deflect God’s plan.”

Philip Yancey, *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006, p. 131.

2. God is compassionate.

(Hosea 11:8; Matthew 7:7-11; 2 Kings 20:1-11)

Conclusion: We serve a dependable God we can count on and yet an attentive God who we can affect.