

1 Corinthians 10:24

Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

If God answered all your prayers, would it change the world, or just you?

I know that's a tough question, and that it's something that we all need to examine in our own prayer life. Because, if we spend so much time just praying for ourselves and not for others, then we won't see a change in this world, or nation or the lives of others.

Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, so Jesus gave them this example on how to pray.

✠ **Luke 11:1-4** *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "**When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.**" (underlined for emphasis)*

Notice the words I underlined, which are, "us", "our" and "we". But also notice what words are not in Jesus' response, "I" and "me" because when Jesus was asked to teach us how to pray, Jesus did not focus on the "I" or "me" in prayer, but the focus was on praying for everyone. Why? Jesus tells us why.

✠ **Matthew 6:8** *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

Now, don't get me wrong, it's not bad or wrong to pray for our own needs. But are we praying so much for ourselves that we have little time to pray for others? Look at today's verse where Paul is telling the Corinthians to "*let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.*"

Ask yourself, are my prayers really intense when it comes to praying for my own needs, yet when I pray for the needs of others, is it more of a casual passing? It's kind of like the worship songs in church. There are probably those songs you will casually sing, because you know it, but not really pouring your heart into when you sing it. But, when the Worship team does that one song that you love, you belt it out, raising your hands up, and your face is full of emotion.

What would happen if you poured that kind of emotion into your prayers for others, where it's not a, I have to pray for this person, but rather it's a, you really want to pray for that person, and you really want to see God answer that prayer for him or her or them?

Another thought is, what if we all truly prayed the way the Lord taught us to, and that is praying for others and not just ourselves. If we all did, we wouldn't really need to pray for our own needs, because so many others would be covering it in prayer for us.

So, if you want to see more answered prayer, pray more for others instead of yourself.

† **James 5:16b** *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

† **Colossians 1:9** *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*