

Lamentations 3:29 (MSG)

Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: Wait for hope to appear.

When someone asks you to pray for them in regards to anything, and your response is:

"Well have you tried _____?"

"Did you see the doctor, what did the doctor say?"

"My friend had the same thing and he did such and such"

"Have you gone to, have you been to, have you tried, have you...." STOP

When someone comes to you asking you to pray for them or someone else, and your response is anything other than praying for God to help them, then what you are telling them is that they don't need God, because you have the answer or know someone or something that does, which in a sense is making yourself, or someone, or something, better than God.

You are in a sense saying, *"Oh, I don't need to pray for you, because 'I' have the answer to your problems."*

Or it's like saying, *"Let's not bother God and try and figure out the solution ourselves."*

Some may say, *"Well I have to ask questions so I know how to pray."* Really, someone is sick with cancer and you want to ask questions so you can know how to pray for them?

Someone's child is sick or missing or is struggling with sin and you need to ask questions to know how to pray for them? If you are honest, the truth is that you are just being nosy.

Remember the blind man in John 9 and how the Disciples responded when they saw him.

✠ **John 9:1-2** *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

Think about that question for a moment. Let's say one of his parent's did sin causing this man to be born blind, would that really affect the way Jesus would pray for him or how Jesus would heal him? In reality, it doesn't matter, because God does not receive glory for what caused something, but rather how He delivers or heals, regardless how it happened. Sure there is grace, mercy and compassion when someone causes something bad to happen to themselves or others, and hopefully the person asking for pray would confess that. For example, *"I was drinking and I got in an accident and I broke my leg and lost my job, can you please pray for me?"* I know that sounds a little extreme, but you hopefully get the idea.

Would it matter how much that person drank, or why they were drinking or even driving drunk, or which leg was broken, or if the drinking caused them to lose their job? It may be info for us, but God knows all the info, so it's not like you need it to let God know the 4-1-1 on what

happened. Someone want's pray, then just pray for him or her or them. Like when someone asks, "Can you please pray for our marriage to get better, we have been having some struggles?" Do you really need to know why they are having issues with their marriage or what their struggles are, or are you just wanting to be nosey and get some dirt on them. If someone wants you to know, they will tell you, and if they don't, then don't press the issue, and let the Holy Spirit guide you in your prayers.

Also when you read of those who came to Jesus for anything, you never read of Jesus giving them the third degree so He would know how to pray for them or heal them or even provide for them. I think of the case where a son had died and Jesus came to the widow while the funeral was happening, and as you read this, notice what Jesus did not do or say:

† **Luke 7:12-15 (NLT2)** *A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

Notice Jesus did not ask how the son died, or how many ways did she try and prevent her son from dying, or how many times did she take him to the doctors, or how many natural medicines did she use to try and cure her son, or how did her husband die, or.....

No, Jesus saw the need, and saw the need of all who came to Him, prayed for that need and met the needs of the people. Do we think we are better than Jesus so we need to ask a thousand question and try to bypass God and take care of those needs ourselves? Paul said, my God will supply all your needs. Not when some comes to you and asks for pray to fulfill that need ourselves, but rather pray for them and let God provide, or heal or do what He knows needs to be done, so that HE receives the glory.

I know it sounds like I am harping on this to much, but let's stop trying to play God to others when they have a prayer request, and simply pray to God for others that HE will be glorified, not man.

† **Philippians 4:19 (NLT2)** *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

† **James 5:16** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*