



## Prayer and Wishes Chapter 2 (Something greater)

### Questions for discussion

#### 1. Why do we pray or wish?

One night I was distraught. I cried out to God for help. I am fascinated in the why. I had never been to church. Mocking Christians was a pastime of mine. What would draw a person to call on something they did not believe in? Why indeed. I could have tried anything like fortune telling or wishing at a well. Yet, I chose the very thing I hated for help.

*“Wishing and praying is probably the major avenue we use in seeking help from something greater. This is how we call out in desperation to something greater. There is no doubt that we seek help. Why do gambling, psychics, and prophesy make so much money. People still want relief. We somehow believe that life should not be this hard. So, we pray and wish. We humbly get on our knees or drop coins in a well. I see it, yet, I also see us relying on false Gods and spirits to provide. Our vision of who we wish and pray to are different than in centuries past. We have forgotten who the greater is. There is a disconnect today, yet the coins and knees keep dropping.” Chapter 2, p, 3*

#### 2. Are prayer and wishes real?

This is the ultimate question? Are Gods real? Is there a heaven and hell? We do have spiritual questions. If it's all made up in our heads then how could those made up thoughts be present in so many heads all over the world? The same fears, hopes, and ideas. How is that possible?

*“I'll admit, as a Christian this topic gives me shivers. It makes me queasy. Am I being deceived? Am I easily manipulated? I believe in God but some parts of our ancient history are odd. People have believed in spirits for a very long time. I agree that old cultures did not have atheists. It was more real back then. Today God is in the shadows. We don't feel the need to pray or wish as we once did. Were they over focused or are we under focused? Between our ancestors and today's culture: who is right?” Chapter 2, p, 5*

#### 3. Do you discount the spiritual?

I know people believe in fake news. People rant all the time over the most ridiculous posts on social media. The passion and anger over things that are clearly false amazes me. Yet, some of these same people have zeal and passion against the existence of God. I do believe that some of those same people avoid ladders, black cats, and throw salt over their shoulder. It's interesting isn't it.

*“We wish and it comes true. Is that dumb luck? We pray and it is apparently heard and granted. Just a coincidence? There are many, many people who believe in conspiracies. People who believe in science without a shred of proof. These days we read stories on the net. Many of them are called fake news. People have been enraged by fake news. Yet, they believe it. Why? Is global warming real? That depends on who you talk too. Some of the answers (as proof) are amazing. Throughout history we have tried to find answers to the unexplainable. Some have called them*

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*spirits, gods, or something else. It seems today that we mock the spiritual and embrace fake news.”*  
Chapter 2, p, 6

### 4. What if something unseen was real?

I was surprised. One night in distress I remembered a tape a friend had given me by Dr. Laura. I was alone, sad, and confused with life. Dr. Laura said we need the spiritual in our lives. I had never heard that before. In that split second my life changed. I believed for the first time in the unbelievable. I could see in my heart the unseen for the first time.

*“The reasons are the same all over the world too. We wish for happiness. We pray for safety. Materials were thrown into the well to ask for victory. A gift or sacrifice was given to have abundant journeys and harvests. It’s taboo to tell a wish. It’s taboo to reveal a prayer. People travel on a spiritual journey in solace to find what they are looking for. Why are we looking? Maybe it’s because something unseen is real.”* Chapter 2, p, 9

### 5. Do we wish and pray just in case?

People say the word *wish* all the time. So much so that we take it for granted. I know a professing atheist on a sports show that offered prayers to fallen victims. I heard it! Do we pray and wish just in case it’s true? That the spiritual exists.

*“People knock on wood just to be sure. They rub a lucky coin or use a lucky number just to be safe. It’s ironic that we usually say better safe than sorry. Yet, we say that superstitious stuff is just baloney. However, we use certain numbers, wear lucky shirts, and step past ladders just to be sure. We don’t really win much either or there would be a lot richer people. Life is still hard. Probably in a poll, prayer and wishes only come true 1% of the time. Yet, we pray and wish regularly. Why? Because we believe in just in case.”* Chapter 2, p, 10

### 6. What if there was something greater than us?

I was stunned that I believed in God all of a sudden. The interesting part is that nobody convinced me. I decided on my own. All my past experiences caught up with me. I got it for the first time. Over the last 20 years I am more convinced today that God exists. The spiritual exists. I see all kinds of people chasing something greater than themselves.

*“Something greater than ourselves has been sought after since the beginning of time. This pursuit did not stop just because an atheist said so. If God does not exist then why do atheists argue about the nonexistence of the Spiritual? Atheists are passionate too. Believers in the spiritual are passionate as well. By hoping in something greater than us: we pray. The coin going plop in well water is satisfying. We love that sound. I believe we hope in something greater while dropping that coin in a well.”* Chapter 2, p, 15