



Prayer and Wishes Chapter 4 (Prayer vs Wishes)

Questions for discussion

1. Do we desire to pray and wish?

There are things we want. Equally, there are things we cannot have. Do we use wishes to fulfill our desires?

“I tried to point out in the first three chapters that we desire to pray or wish. I think its engrained in us to seek out something greater beyond ourselves for help. Maybe it’s just to gain wisdom. Maybe its to make a dream come true. Let’s pretend that we really wanted this girl or guy who is living across the street. Every morning you say hi, in passing, as you head off to school. For some reason you’re in love with them. Who really knows why that happens. But, each day, your heart deepens for them in a one-sided love affair, forged within you. So, you wish.” Chapter 4, p, 2

2. Are we pushed to pray and wish?

Does our heart control what we want? Can we break it down to hormones and chemicals? Does a wish come from how we see things? What do you think?

“Desperate times call for desperate measures. Once the heart wants it, usually you have to have it. I guess chemicals and hormones kick in. Yet, a message from the eye goes to the brain. The brain asks for hormones to annoy the heart. The heart starts dancing and calling for action. Is it just that easy? Our brain is Santa giving us what the heart desires. That allows us to go on television and profess our love to an unexpected person. It might also drive a person to blow someone away with a 12-gauge shot gun for embarrassing them on national television. I bet on a rating scale of our heart: passion and embarrassment are equal. We will act in both instances to satisfy them both.” Chapter 4, p, 6

3. Can we manipulate a prayer or wish?

I certainly do know people who say they have done good things. They have also said God blesses them because of their good deeds. Jesus was told he was good. He quickly replied that only God the Father is good. Do you believe your goodness is enough to have a wish granted?

“All three guys tried in his own way to save the marriage. They all had desires, hopes and dreams that needed filling. The same results show me a few things. One is that the way we wish or pray makes no difference. Fate, providence, and dumb luck cannot be bought. The way each marriage ended were similar, yet to a man, each of these guys were different. One believed in God and the other two did not. I do believe all three-tried praying. God cannot be bought either.” Chapter 4, p, 6

4. Which do we use more: prayer or wishes?

I know that wishes are ancient. They are riddled in folklore and fairy tales. Someone believed in them. People have prayed since the beginning of time to the gods. What works for you?



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“I’ve heard people say God was invented to explain the unexplainable. In time, as we have learned to explain things, we have distanced ourselves from God. Funny enough, we have drawn ourselves closer to the occult, and mysticism. Isn’t all of it the spiritual? Yet, God is not the in thing these days. I bet he has an easier workload of prayer to answer. The local lake spirit needs a new contract. Overworked!” Chapter 4, p, 10

5. Are we driven for good results?

I know that some refuse to enter a church because their family member died. God let it happen. The prayer was no or unheard. Certainly, I think wishes are silly. Yet, we use both of these things. Do we ignore one type because it does not work?

“What if you went to some Chinese restaurant two nights in a row. At the end of the dinner, the server brought you the bill and a Chinese fortune cookie. On each particular night you break it open and the fortune falls on the table. You read it. Each one says something contradictory like you have been favored by God and God is angry with you. Oh boy, are you in a dilemma? In the mean time you had been praying for money. Which cookie was the right one? It might not be a stretch that you stick to the positive one. We want our desires met with good results.” Chapter 4, p, 12

6. Are prayer and wishes tools for hope?

I like this question. We hope for a better world and life. Being positive is a good thing. Do you think that prayer and wishes are tools for hope? A way through this mess called life?

“So, which is better Patrick? I know a woman who meets people at Tim Hortons every day to give them a card reading. Sometimes she posts it was a good day. What did that mean? I know another girl that believes in astrology. She has posted things look favorable. To my dying friend it’s not a good day or favorable. He is praying like nuts. They are all using tools to find hope.” Chapter 4, p, 13