



Prayer and Wishes Chapter 8 (sane vs insane)

Questions for discussion

1. Is it insane to pray?

If nothing is there beyond ourselves then don't pray. What happens when people think your weird praying all the time. Why not get a life? Some people say we get plenty of life praying. That this insane world becomes a little saner after prayer. What do you think?

"Is it insane to pray? No, of course not. We should pray far more often than we do. It's a shame that most prayer happens when people are in trouble. Prayer during the good times can be an awesome experience. It's full of praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Troubled prayer has helplessness, crying, and pleading. Who wants that. Imagine ordering food without a clue how to order. There would be pauses, a lot of "ah's", and awkward moments. The server would be annoyed. Then there are Tim's coffee people. No hesitation, I want a large double, double said at the speed of sound. The server is already making it before your finished ordering." Chapter 8, p, 3

2. Is wishing insane?

Why wish if it's folklore? What if there is nothing in the well? Maybe a wish is pointing towards hope. We wish for the best. Is it all that crazy to toss a coin in a well. If a shooting star flashes by is it silly to wish? Hope says no, go for it. What do you think?

"If you ask people who they wish too, the answers are all over the board. I have been reading about wishes and it seems the most common answer is good karma. We do it for good intent to shine upon us. We pray and hope God will look kindly upon us. I said in chapter 3 that a professor believed that hope is positively spurred on by wishing. Wishing is a positive thing. I know praying is too. Yet, praying has been labeled insane by some. However, who labels wishing as insane. Nobody!" Keep a miracle as a silent gift." Chapter 8, p, 5

3. Is our sanity relative to our beliefs?

What I mean is that the more we follow God the crazier we could look. Possibly, we see the world through sane eyes when we bolster hope through prayer. A wish is hope? If we believe in hope then maybe we are becoming realists.

"Our sanity is relative to our beliefs. I know some people think the world is flat. Really? Are we back there again? That seems nuts. They think that round world believers are crazy. Certainly, we tossed up an apple in the middle ages and it fell to the ground. Today we believe it's gravity. I have a hard time with gamblers. They see possibility at the blackjack table. I think it's a waste. I love playing video games. Is it a waste of time? Who is the sane?" Chapter 8, p,7

4. What do you see inside failure?

Is failure really failure? Maybe it's a way through. At least we know which ways not to go. Maybe it becomes clear when a prayer is no. Possibly an unanswered wish is reason to ask it another way. Nothing is a failure. It's just the wrong way through.

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“Robert burns wrote of mice and men “the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” Isn’t failure part of winning? What seems insane can become sane in time. I did not believe in God years ago. Praying seemed insane. My marriage failed and I began to pray. Go figure. So many people pray to gain. I prayed to get back my marriage. Yet, we all know that sometimes prayers and wishes don’t come true.” Chapter 8, p, 9

5. Can you dis-prove a prayer or wish?

If I send a prayer, prove that it’s false. Am I lying? Is it to no one? Prove it? Prove to me my wishes can’t come true. Tell Walt Disney that his hope in wishes and dreams are ludicrous. Gravity, wishes and prayer are invisible, but we see the effects of all three from time to time.

“Who has life’s answers. An atheist says nobody does but science. A religious person says God does through the unknown. Isn’t science unknown until proven? Yet, the men and women in science dream of answers. They long for what the hope for and believe in. What happens when science disproves a theory? Science can’t Dis-prove God? How do you Dis-prove the unseen? Can you dis-prove a prayer or a wish? It’s insane to try. What a waste of time.” Chapter 8, p, 10

6. It’s not crazy to look beyond ourselves.

How many people go for help at a drug rehab facility in the whole world? Are they not looking beyond themselves? Is it crazy to tell someone that praying and wishing works? It might seem like a long shot but it’s still a shot. People from every religion and culture look beyond themselves. To something greater. Is the whole world crazy?

“I just wrote 12 pages building a case for one thing: be open to change. I could have saved us a lot of reading. It’s insane to close yourself off to the impossible. Thank God Edison never did. I think the reason Einstein believed in God is because he hoped for more beyond himself. Just don’t call what seems weird or impossible insanity. In time it might become the sane truth. We hope, wish, and pray for more in life. That is exactly how we got planes, trains, and electricity. I was closed off, yet once I went beyond my own understanding, I have opened up. That my friend was a miracle.” Chapter 8, p, 12