

Playing Prayer Baseball with God

Those of you who know me well, know that I love baseball. What you do not know is that I have been playing prayer baseball with God since 1952. The rules are simple: God's will always scores the first run in each inning. When my prayer request matches His, I score a run. Hopefully, we will be tied at the end of each inning.

Here is a re-cap of the game.

Inning	Date	Inning Re-Cap	Score	
			GOD	Chas
1	7/1/1952	A 9 year old boy prays desperately that God will save his dying baby brother. God scores; I don't	1	0
1	1972 ??	A grown man researches his baby brother's fatal illness and agrees that God's decision was the best one for him. I finally score my run and the inning ends in a tie, 20 years later.	1	1
2	1968 ?	A young man and his bride are rushing to the closing of their first home. Suddenly, a truck hauling a large bull dozer heading towards them swings around side-ways into our lane and there is nowhere to go! With God's help, the truck & trailer carrying the bulldozer separate and we were able to go between them. There was no time for prayers before; but plenty of praise prayers after.	1	1
3	1978?	A young Naval Officer in Denver for training learns that his grandmother is dying. He prays that she will live until he can get to see her one last time. He arrives at RDU late Saturday night. Early Sunday morning he drives to Henderson, NC to see her in the hospital. She dies peacefully in her sleep on Monday.	1	1
4	4/13/1988 Friday the 13th	A NC Revenue Officer begins to have signs of a major heart attack while at work. His prayer is " <i>God, please don't let me die on this dirty bathroom floor.</i> " God agrees and he has very successful triple bypass surgery a few days later.	1	1
5	1996	A son rushes to his dying father's bedside with the prayer, " <i>Please let me see him one more time before he dies.</i> " He dies peacefully about 3 hours after I arrive at his bedside.	1	1

6	9/6/2020	An old man's defibrillator goes off 4 times within 20 minutes. Strangely, his prayer is not "Lord, please let me live!" Instead, it is, "Lord, please do not let me show fear if this is my time to go! If it is my time, please take me now and quit shocking me with that d@^n defibrillator!"	1	1
7	9/20/2020	That same old man's heart suddenly goes into fatal rhythms and the entire Duke Cardiac Quick Response Team, two MDs, and several techs are in the room. Again he prays "Lord, please do not let me show fear. If this is my time to go please take me now. I am ready!"	1	1
8	??/??/???	One day in the future, God throws my 3rd strike and the game ends in a tie; but I am the real winner! (See below.)	1	1
Final Score: God 8; Charles 8 It was a great game!				8 8

Although the game ends in a tie, I win because the next afternoon during one of God's minor league baseball games, the announcer will say:

"This afternoon's starting rookie catcher is Charles Hawks who is catching for his baby brother, Robert Lewis Hawks, who has been pitching in this league since 1952." In the grandstand are their parents and loved ones. (Hopefully, Charles' greatest baseball hero New York Yankee catcher, Yogi Berra, and some of his 1950-60's NYY team mates are also in the grandstand.)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. – Psalm 23:4

The idea for this message came to me about 4 am one night while I was in the Cardiac Care Unit at ARMC. I was happy that I was able to finish it at home.

~ Charles Hawks 11/8/2020