

December 1st!

Only 24 days till the birth of our savior. If you watch the news you might be hearing how the supply chain issue might 'ruin' Christmas for millions of people. I don't think the lack of presents will affect the Christians of the world. We have the Christmas Presence without needing to rely on that supply chain. We have a pipeline to the best supplier there is, Jesus! The pipeline is prayer. Pray and your prayers will be answered. Remember, the answer won't always be what you wanted, or even expected, but it will be the answer you need.

If you have been to a service, you know each week Pastor updates us on the prayers needed by members, friends, and families of SOH. Do you pray when you hear the names? Do prayers work? Does it really do any good to pray for someone you don't even know. How many times can you pray for someone named Chuck when you don't know anyone named Chuck?

I watched a show on Amazon Prime Video about the power of prayer. A Doctor that had just graduated had a patient who had stage 4 lung cancer. He wanted to start the man on a treatment plan immediately, despite the fact the man was terminal. Treatment would only add a short time to his life. He refused all medical treatment. While he was in the hospital his church formed a prayer circle around the man and prayed every day during visiting hours. The Doctor watched this play out for several weeks. He could potentially save the man's life, but instead they just prayed. Finally, the man was sent home to die. One year later, the same man came to the hospital with the flu. He saw the same doctor. While the doctor examined him, he asked where he had gotten treatment for his cancer. The man said he never had any treatment after leaving the hospital, only prayers. The doctor ordered a chest x-ray, and it came back clear. 100% normal. The radiologist even made a note saying he had never seen lungs recover after cancer treatment like this man's. The doctor told the tech the man had not had treatment. There was no other explanation, the prayers worked, and the man was healed.

This got the Doctor thinking, could it be true? Could prayers heal? Being a Doctor and a scientist, he couldn't allow himself to believe it could. Medical school teaches you the Doctor heals, prayer is for the desperate, the ones without hope. But he had seen the man healed.

He decided to do a study. It was simple: The next 300 patients that came to the ER for cardiac problems were put on a list. First names only, no other info, just a name. He took 150 of the names and mailed them to different churches and prayer groups asking them to pray for the name on the list. Again, nothing but a first name. He sent them all over the country.

The results were astonishing. When the Doctor tracked the patients on different issues, everyone of the patients that had been prayed for did better than the ones who were not prayed for. The post-surgery infection was 3X less on the prayed for group. The risk of complications was dramatically reduced. The one-year outcomes were all drastically better for the people that were prayed for.

This was enough for the Doctor, he was convinced that pray can not only heal, but can prevent problems. He now prays for every one of his patients. He also wrote a book documenting hundreds of miracle cures related to prayers. He hopes other doctors will read it and change their thinking.

When you see a name in the weekly update, or you hear Pastor mention a name in need of prayers, take a minute and pray for them. It does help them and will help you. Anytime you pray, you are opening the supply chain letting God's gift flow in.

If you want to meet some people that have been saved and are living walking miracles, we have several at church every week. They are the names you have been praying for, and I for one am grateful they all were healed by Miracles. Just to let you know, if your name is ever on a prayer list, SOH will be praying for you, regardless of your need.

Duane Gilson

Council President