

“Why Pray When We Don’t See Results”

Last week one day, I knelt at my “altar” (a big chair in my living room) to pray for all of the people in war ravaged Ukraine, those on the West coast dealing with flooding and landslides, and those in the Sierra Nevadas dealing with winter blizzard and unprecedented amounts of snow, and then there were the folks in the southeast who had just suffered great loss from multiple destructive tornadoes; the more I prayed the heavier my heart grew, almost to the point of being overwhelmed!

I was feeling what Gideon said to the Angel of the Lord in Judges 6:13 *“if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all His wonders our fathers told us about when they said “Did not the Lord bring us out of Egypt?” But now the Lord has abandoned us...”* (NIV) To put this into context, I was plagued with a panic/anxiety disorder for years decades ago, but even with all we went through with Vicki and the pressures of selling one house and buying another, it never bothered me. Right now, my body is out of sync, and has stirred up some old feelings.

Back to my heaviness during prayer, the Lord heard me and reminded me that we as compassionate humans have a burdens for one another and while we are meant to bear one another’s burdens, we are to take them to the Lord in prayer; what He reminded me of was that we are so focused on wanting God to “fix” all the dilemmas we face on earth, but in the big picture, it’s NOT about this life, which He describes as a vapor or a mist.

Years ago, as I watched my Dad, curled into a fetal position, fading quickly from this life, the Lord reminded me what Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:19: *“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.”* (NIV) We tend to focus so much on asking God to change the natural obstacles we are confronted with, we forget to ask Him to release His supernatural power to work in our crisis.

So here’s my answer from personal experiences - we should pray for ourselves and others for God to “fix” whatever the need might be, but we should also ask Him to pour out His comfort, His all sufficient grace, His very real peace, His strength, etc. Many times He will not take us out of a situation, but He will ALWAYS give us sufficient grace and strength to get THROUGH it. I tell people it was only by God’s grace and the PRAYERS of the saints we got through what we did with Vicki! PRAY, because our prayers will be effective in ways we might never expect! Amen!