

Pastor's Corner

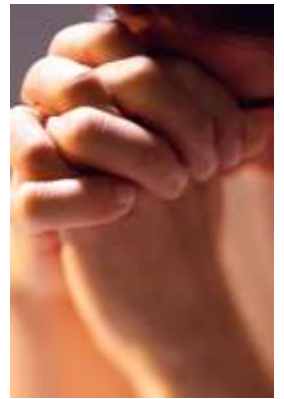
Unanswered Prayers

April 29, 2009

Dear Friend,

Have you checked out Google maps? It's pretty neat; you just type in an address, hit the satellite button, and then you can zoom in. Most of the time you can zoom in and see the color of the car in front of your house. Now don't run to Google and see if your car is still at home; the image you'll see is several months old. But here's something you can do: after zooming into an address, then click the – sign to zoom out. Keep doing it, and now you have a much bigger picture, in fact, a picture of the whole world. It makes me realize that a lot more is going on than just my little house!

Yesterday morning in my prayer time I asked for a safe trip, and that I would make all my flight connections on time. Within a few hours I was sitting on an airplane in Dallas, Texas. They closed the door and the flight attendant went down the preflight checklist, telling us we were taking off within a few minutes. I felt relieved. I was tired, and looked forward to my brother meeting my wife and me at the airport and taking us home. But instead of pushing back, we waited. Ten minutes passed, then fifteen. The pilot came on and announced there was a problem with the luggage compartment, and it would be a slight delay. Another 40 minutes passed. Soon I saw a lady get on the airplane, short of breath from running, and she quickly found her seat. A few minutes later two more people boarded, also out of breath. I thought, "Wow, I bet they were sure they missed their flight, and weren't they surprised to find us still here on the ground!" I could just imagine them being delayed on *their* flights, and they were sure they had missed their connection flights. Perhaps they had prayed that God would work it out that they could make their connection (I know I have when I've been in their situation!) And when they arrived at the gate for their connection, I bet they were so surprised and relieved to find us still on the ground an hour late.



It made me think of God and His dilemma with prayers. You see, most of the time in order to answer one person's prayer, another person's request has to go unanswered. To answer the prayer of the farmer for rain usually means that the bride's prayer for sunny skies goes unanswered, and the skier's prayer for snow means the roads will be pretty slick for others. And my prayers to land on time went unanswered as God answered other's prayers for a late departure.

I guess the real issue is this; will I give up on God when things don't go my way, and my prayers go unanswered? Or can God count on me being His friend and worshiper in spite of the fact I don't get all my little prayers answered? Can I have a worldwide, no, I mean a universal perspective, instead of my little backyard perspective, and allow God to run the universe according to His will and not mine? As the Google map image can be changed from just my little house to looking at vast continents and even the world, will I allow God the same freedom to operate and direct His universe?

We hope you have an awesome day, and I hope you will stay close to Christ, even if everything doesn't happen just like you wish and pray for! We're praying for you that your faith will grow stronger and stronger!

Mark