

CHURCH LIES ABOUT PRAYER

Prayer is communication with God. We only pray when we are trying to cause a change in the universe or in ourselves or both. We want God to rearrange it for us. We want him to change others and us for us. We are not supposed to pray that way but that is what prayer is really about.

Even if we simply tell God we love him we are doing that for we are trying to get him to cause us to love him more. If we didn't we wouldn't be loving him. Prayer means trying to cause God to change something, to make something different. But God is all wise and all knowing. He will do the right thing whether asked or not. Prayer then amounts to blasphemy (insulting God) and black magic (you can't expect to fool God except by magic) and superstition (you are nothing in comparison to God and yet you think you can manipulate him). If prayer does no good then why pray? It would be an iniquitous waste of time. What prayer does is not bring us closer to God but brings us closer to the representatives of God who try to control what we think about God. When we follow the image of God they have painted we follow them in reality.

Religion knows that many ask for great spiritual favours from God even of a personal development nature that they never get. What does it do? It goes and puts the cart in front of the horse. It says it knows prayer works and then urges you to imagine that it still works even when the opposite of what you asked for happens. It says there is good in everything. That doctrine is used to mask how prayer does not work.

THE BIG LIE: JESUS AND HIS CHURCH CRUELLY OFFER FALSE HOPE

Jesus' prayerbook that he used daily was the psalms. The psalms then spell out how Jesus would have worshipped and the kind of religion he supported. The psalms are very clear that trusting a friend to bring back the book you loaned her and trusting God to end your trouble and act on a problem are much the same thing. God works in the same way as the friend. He acts human.

It is very dangerous to let yourself be arrested or whatever thinking God is going to rescue you. And the psalms for example encouraged that very danger.

Jesus went too far with promising answers to prayer – Matthew 21:21, 22. Matthew 18:19 to 20. Mark 11:24. John 14:13-14. Remember these things were said to ordinary people most of whom had a simple straightforward faith. The doctrine that you must expect the clear solution to a specific problem to come from above not just a vague one is in the New Testament – read 1 John 5:14 to 15. Read Philippians 4:6 to 7. Those people clearly took advantage of silly people who imagine their prayers are always answered. Such cranks are relatively common.

And Jesus and co were to blame for the deaths of many in the early days of the Church.

Even today the cruelty of having people praying and pray in cathedrals and churches in wartime for peace is condoned and as good as commanded. Millions lost their lives in the Second World War regardless. Gnostic Christians, if they were around today, might argue that the prayers backfired for they prayed to the God who runs the world and who is a bad God, the Demiurge.

THE OTHER LIES

Church says: We must not think that God refuses to give us blessings until we ask for them. Prayer is basically letting God know that he knows best and his will be done. It is implicitly asking for his blessing and strength to endure the trials that he may send and he will give these whether we ask explicitly for them or not. Prayer is not just talking to God, its more than that. It is uniting your heart and mind with the heart and mind of God. When we say you need to pray to get blessings from God what we mean is not that you have to ask for them but that you become worthy of them so that you will be able to receive them. Even if you don't use words in prayer but just desire to become like God that is a prayer itself for it is telling God you need his help to become more like him.

The Truth: Prayer then is about moulding and shaping you into the Church's idea of perfection. That's all. For example, the married Catholic should turn away from using artificial contraception to please not God but the Church's understanding of God.

It is the worst kind of hypocrite who claims to be humbly making prayer to God to say save the life of a friend. Prayer doesn't mould you into anything praiseworthy.

#Hypocrisy 1 Asking God to help a friend when you mean, "God do whatever you want", is pretending that you want God to do what he wants. You are trying to manipulate God and lie and use trickery to get what you want.

#Hypocrisy 2 In reality you think that it is you not God that knows best. Otherwise you would not be asking God to help.

#Hypocrisy 3 Praying for the person will comfort them for they like to think somebody is thinking of them. But this is misleading them if your meaning is, "God do whatever you want".

#Hypocrisy 4 You think they should be doing the praying themselves. The person in trauma is the best person to deal with getting help from God. If prayer is just about doing the word of God and saying, "God do whatever you want" then you are not doing the person any favours by praying for them. They should be praying to get close to God for that is what prayer is all about and nobody else can get close to God for you and pray for you.

#Hypocrisy 5 If John had stayed in London and not moved to Arizona he probably would not have contracted cancer. Doing different things makes your life different. So he didn't pray, pray right or pray enough so he deserves what he got.

#Hypocrisy 6 If you need help and prayer doesn't work then clearly it may be your own fault. Prayer increases human sanctimony - others will blame you and enjoy feeling wiser and superior and more prayerful than you.

Church says: An all-good and all-powerful God doesn't need to be asked for anything. But if you make yourself good and holy as you can and become his friend and express that through prayer you will find that good things from him will come your way. Prayer does not change God's mind, if we want something from him we have to sanctify ourselves so that he will be able to reward us and give us what we ask. If we ask for something that isn't good for us he will give us something better. No prayer made in the proper spirit is ever unanswered. The only thing that stops us receiving what we ask for is sin. God will not give us much if we sin for then we only want to abuse his goodness, we want good things but not to be good.

The Truth: Saints have experienced years of depression that they call the dark night of the soul and have even showed signs of possession by the "Devil". God will do what God wants to do. All the prayer in the world will not stop you becoming depressed if that is what God wants. Doctrines like the above are just bait to manipulate people into the Church.

If prayer works, the one thing that would never happen is depression for nobody in their right mind would say that any good comes from it. And if good comes in spite of it, that is a reason for God NOT to allow it.

Church says: Prayer cannot change God who will always do what is best.

The Truth: Suppose a sick person does not get better despite your prayers but claims to feel comforted a little by God. Then when prayer isn't doing anything for the person you pray for, the feeling of peace it gives is an illusion. Comfort is an insult when you need help. The Church resorts to say you do not really need help for your suffering is part of God's good plan. What a terrible doctrine!

Church says: Some say that prayer does not change God. The reason it seems to is because when God is setting up cause and effect he includes your prayer as one of the causes to bring about some goal.

The truth: If that is true, then it still does not matter if you pray or not.

Church says: Praying for famine victims is noble

The Truth: Donate your wages first and then pray. If you had a choice and it had to be one or the other, should you pray or donate the wages? If God and prayer come first then pray. That is extremism. It means believers do not help you because you are sick but because they think God wants them to help.

Church says: Prayer changes people.

The Truth: It does not for the people would change anyway because there are many people who pray who God makes worse when he sends temptations or gives them a nature that invites them to sin inevitably. The Church would write in an article how prayer does not change for God will do what God will do and then later on contradicts itself and says it changes you!

Church says: The benefits of prayer and the sacraments cannot be put down to a mere placebo effect.

The Truth: So the Church leaders are psychiatrists? Didn't know that!

Religious people should be well aware of the placebo effect. If people think sacraments help or that prayer works, religion wants them to say it is God that is helping and not the placebo effect. This is sheer manipulation. Suppose it is true that taking communion makes you a better Christian, Catholics insist that for this to happen you must believe that it is the body and blood of Jesus Christ. They say that if you don't see it for what it is, Jesus, you miss the point and miss out on many of its benefits. What they are trying to do is manipulate you. Without belief, the placebo effect will be weak or nothing will happen at all. They are trying to trigger the placebo effect in you and then get you to fool yourself that it is God at work and not a mere placebo. It takes some arrogance to hold that the healing power of your positive attitude is really the power of God. Religion when it is dogmatic is dogmatic for it wishes to do exactly that. If communion has power it will work regardless of what you think of it. You do not need to believe in an antibiotic for it to help you. Religion's obsession with belief is a sign of conscious manipulation of the vulnerable. It takes pains to warn that unbelievers will be punished but it never explains why belief matters.

This is bullying.

Church says: Prayer protects us from temptation. When faced with temptation to sin, prayer fortifies you.

The Truth: Nonsense – when God won't protect you from temptation and gives Satan the supernatural power to tempt you, he would tempt himself for there is no difference. You cannot trust him and I mean cannot. You will be incapable of trusting him. If you feel you trust him then what you mean is that you are superior to everybody else and have immunity from giving in.

A God who tempts is worse than a Devil who does it for God has all the power. The Devil has only so much.

Also, if prayer protects you against temptation or fortifies you, clearly though temptation is not a sin in itself it is a sin when you didn't do much to avoid it and didn't pray enough.

It is cruel to accuse people who fall into sin after fortifying themselves with prayer by saying they did not pray right or did not mean the prayers. What if they did?

Church says: Mother Teresa got her strength to do good from prayer

The Truth: Most people who pray do not do as much good as they could for other people so we have no way of knowing if this is true, not everybody reports such strength. And many would take issue with Mother Teresa's goodness. Psychologists would not take such a simplistic view that it was prayer that empowered any good that Mother T did. Prayer must be anti-psychology then!

Church says: Prayer must always be made in a spirit of gratitude to God. Even if we ask for healing for a friend, we must make sure first of all that we are grateful to God so that the prayer is made with gratitude at the back of our minds. Ungratefulness is offensive to God and will stop the prayer from being answered.

The Truth: Though Christians claim to believe God is in control they do not. They don't thank him for killing their babies with cancer. They don't thank him for letting them be abducted as infants and raped left right and centre by sick paedophiles. They don't dance up and down with spiritual delight at how God let Hitler come to power. If they don't want to celebrate the evil they could say they celebrate how the evil served good. How could prayers that deny God's plan and how he uses evil to do good really honour God? How then could any of their prayers work? If anybody is answering them, it is not God.

Christians say that evil is good that lacks something. So evil is good in the wrong place and time. That means they should rejoice in a baby's cancer for the cancer is not inherently evil so it must be inherently good. If evil is mistaken good then you must honour the good not the mistake which means you celebrate cancer. And if the cancer is inherently evil and is in no way good then God has created evil and to honour him is to honour something worse than Satan for even Satan cannot create evil!

Church says: The best thing you can do for others is to pray for them.

The Truth: This puts the God theory before people for we should be saying the best thing for others is to actually do something for them that you KNOW will have results. No decent person would invite you to feel that you have done the best thing possible for a dying baby by praying for her when there might be no God who is interested in the prayers. These objections are conclusive - and the extreme immorality of Christian spirituality is proven when you consider how even prayer is a sin when you look at how believers go about it. Prayer coming from a hypocritical heart can never be the best thing you can do for others.

When what is prayed for is seemingly granted, this supposedly bears witness to that Church's version of the gospel of

Jesus. This gospel says that the main commandment is to love God with all our strength and power. Even loving yourself and your neighbour isn't as important. If you don't have the strength to love somebody enough to save their life you have to give the love to God instead. We know we cannot love God as much as the so-called gospel demands. So accordingly, everything we do is a sin. No matter what good we do we are glad that we are not asked to suffer for all eternity to save somebody else at God's command. So we love freedom from pain more than God or other people. We cannot protest that it is not our fault that we cannot love God enough for he must help us for he cannot command the impossible. These answers to prayer and miracles then have taken place to make us more sinful by believing in God not less and cannot be relied upon as the testimony of God to the truth of the gospel or evidence for a really good God.

If religion is right that the miracle of answer to prayer is a sign of God's love, then the following mystery occurs. Why is Johnnie boy cured of paralysis and why is toddler Tanya who is dying of lung cancer overlooked? Obviously religion has to say that God puts himself and his own will first. So they will have to say miracles back up the doctrine that God should be put first by me even if it means me enduring extreme torment forever to help others if it helps them.

Prayer cannot be done without sin when God is so holy that he can only endure perfection. So it must be Satan who is answering the prayers! "God I want you but not too much," is an insult not a prayer.

Prayer is hypocritical superstition. It fails to help anybody and many are lured into superstition by its promoters. It is inhuman when understood properly.

Christians pray for sinners. Sinners who feel they can trust them because they pray for them are misplacing their trust. Here is why. Christians say they can condemn actions as vile and evil and abominable when these actions are carried out by people who are reasonably sane and who know what they are doing. They deny that they can condemn the doers of the actions in the same way. They say only God can do that. That means they say that if God condemns you and they know it then they will hate you. To say you love a person because you don't know if they are unlovable or not is not really loving that person. It is taking a chance. The love is conditional. It is loving the conditions not the person. This is no good. If Charlie loves Andie because she is rich then it is really the wealth he loves not her.

Church says: Prayer is good therapy.

The Truth: Those who promote religious faith to people who are troubled do not have those people's true concerns at heart. The person who tells a person with commitment issues and who has promiscuous sex to pray instead of seeing a therapist is cheating that person. They are manipulating that person to dull pain with rationalisations. The same can happen if praying is seen as more important than working with the therapist. If they tell the person to prayerfully go and see a therapist they are encouraging that person to believe that prayer is only using the therapist as a tool to heal and that the therapist in herself or himself is useless. That is dangerous if prayer does not work. It is making the progress less effectual. Christianity's scriptures teach that suffering is something to be boasting about (Romans 5:1-5) for sufferings bring patience etc. The scriptures forbid us to boast about our good deeds (Ephesians 2: 8 - 10) so nobody can pretend that it means that we are to boast about how we handle suffering. It means we are to boast about suffering but not boast about the good results it brings. This is masochism.

Suppose I pray for help. I get a good idea afterwards that solves my problem. Or I feel that the problem is not going to be so bad. Or I feel stronger about dealing with it. That these things may happen after prayer does not mean that prayer really caused them. If prayer does a placebo effect for consciences that will explain how so many people are so nasty in the name of religion and feel good about it. Prayer only leads to people being manipulated by religious delusions and lies. Why do I want to believe the good things were down to my praying? It is because I want to feel that God is on my side and going to protect me from anything really bad.

Religion leaves people unprepared and without other resources when trauma comes. The mother with a dying child who prays all the time instead of looking for a therapist will end up worse off than an irreligious mother who took all the secular help that was available.

Church says: It is good to encourage your children to pray and to pray often.

The Truth: Johnny being a child will be asking God to do miracles. He will think of prayer more as a way to get what you want than as a form of submission to God. Encouraging children and teens to pray is encouraging them to want to manipulate reality by making things happen. It makes them too selfish. This can lead them to religiosity. Or it can lead to them ditching religion to be selfish. In either case, they will be made too selfish because of the irresponsible people who urged them to pray when they were in their childhood. Religion does more indirect evil than direct evil.

Church says: Miracles help make converts to the faith. Faith is no good unless it is an act of union with God. In other words, people use their belief to unite with God. Miracles indicate the truth of divine teaching and the need for unity with

God. So strictly speaking miracles are for bringing others to prayer.

Many miracles such as apparitions call for prayer.

The truth: Miracles are evil if they imply approval for the evil of prayer. And religion says miracles are about inviting us to experience the love of God.

Conclusion

Prayer is flavoured with hypocrisy and deceit. And so is any miracle that advocates prayer. People who are vulnerable and in dire need will pray to what they were brought up to pray to. Religion takes advantage of their foxhole situation.