

PRAYER WORKS!

Let me say as I begin this, I appreciate all the kind words that I have received from many of you concerning the articles I write for the NEWSLETTER. Your encouragement means a great deal to me. I enjoy writing, and if the words I write are helpful to you, it makes me feel as if I'm accomplishing what I want—articles that inspire and encourage. I'm often asked how I get the ideas that I use in the writing of these articles. Quite often, as was the case last week, as well as this week, real life events give me pause to think and cause me to share with you my impressions of those events.

One thing I have been reminded of (and all of need this kind of reminding!) is that **PRAYER WORKS**. As I wrote last week, we need to realize that God is in control of our lives and that we need to accept His answer without doubt, whether or not the answer is the one we sought. Being selfish, we want what we want, only because we can't, because of our human frailties, see the big picture. Only God knows the future, only God knows what's best for us. Only God knows the effect His answer will eventually have on us and others.

A wise man (Chuck Yarborough) once shared with me words of wisdom that I have repeated over and over again in the years since he spoke them to me. As far as requests for our wants and needs are concerned, we need to "take them to the Lord in prayer, and leave them there." God will take care of them in a way that is most beneficial to all concerned and according to His will, not necessarily ours.

Jesus said that prayer should be a private conversation between you and your Father. He also says, in so many words, that God knows what we need and will provide those things in His time. Read **Matthew 6:5-15 and 25-34**. Paul says in **Philippians 4:6-7**:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Take your requests to God and feel peace knowing that He will take care of them according to His will. James said in **James 1:6** that we should have unquestioned faith in this, and never doubt. If we doubt, James says, we are double-minded and like the waves of the sea, blown around by the wind. We say we believe, but we doubt what we've asked will ever be answered by God. Then we do believe, then we doubt, over and over again. James says we shouldn't expect our prayers to be effective in that type of situation.

Again, **PRAYER WORKS**. Never doubt that. Knowing you can make your request and know it will be taken care of in the way God wants it should have a calming effect on you in whatever situation in which you find yourself. God really is in control.