

Prayer and Healing

Can Prayer Heal You?

You may have seen on the TV the question, "Can prayer heal you?" Usually such a question is made on the assumption that praying can put a person into a psychological frame of mind that promotes healing. Apparently, having a positive attitude to one's sickness does play a part in many recoveries. However, on the mere assumption that prayer may be useful because it produces a positive attitude, who does the healing? If people improve in health, they have worked the improvement themselves. God may not have come into consideration at all. Prayer, if it is to God, is regarded as an instrument to manipulate Him without regard to His government as God or to His will.

If, on the other hand, the question means, "Can God heal you in answer to prayer to Him?" the answer is obvious. God is almighty. The only time when we would object to such a question would be when it was a wrong question, which had set up a direct contradiction, like the blasphemous question, "Can God make a stone so big that He cannot move it?" Christian people do not ask questions like that. They arise from doubt and ridicule God's omnipotence. Of course, Christians believe in miracles. Without faith in miracles, we could not believe the most important one of all, the resurrection of Christ our Lord from the dead. If we did not believe that, we would be the most pitiable of all people.