

SUMMARY: Surely God answers prayers for spiritual blessings such as peace, love, wisdom, and patience. However, if God frequently answered the prayers for physical blessings and we are the true church, you would be able to tell it because we would be healthier, wealthier, or wiser than others. If that were to happen people would be joining the church for the fringe earthly benefits. Earthly benefits are not what the church is about and clearly God does not do that frequently.

If God frequently answered the prayers for physical blessings and we are the true church, you would be able to tell it because we would be healthier, wealthier, or wiser than others. If that were to happen people would be joining the church for the fringe earthly benefits. Earthly benefits are not what the church is about.

Whereas Jehovah has the power to answer any prayer at any time, it seems reasonable to conclude that during the current times we have an assurance that prayers for spiritual blessings will be answered and prayers for physical blessings are not likely to be answered to a discernable amount.

The following is a computer search for "PRAY + ***" All verses found in the New Testament are listed, plus some selected verses of interest:

Matt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (NAS)

Matt 6:5 "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full." (NAS)

Matt 6:6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you." (NAS)

Matt 6:9-13 "Pray, then, in this way: `Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (NAS)

Matt 14:23 "And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone." (NAS)

Matt 19:13 "Then {some} children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them." (NAS)

Matt 24:20 "But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;" (NAS) (Jesus speaking)

TOPICAL STUDIES

GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS



Matt 26:36 "Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." (NAS)

Mark 6:46 "And after bidding them farewell, He departed to the mountain to pray." (NAS)

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be {granted} you." (NAS) (guaranteed to apostles only?)

Mark 13:18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter." (NAS)

Mark 14:35 "And He went a little beyond {them,} and fell to the ground, and {began} to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by." (NAS)

Luke 5:16 "But He Himself would {often} slip away to the wilderness and pray." (NAS)

Luke 6:12 "And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God." (NAS)

Luke 6:28 "bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (NAS)

Luke 9:28 "And some eight days after these sayings, it came about that He took along Peter and John and James, and went up to the mountain to pray." (NAS)

Luke 11:1 "And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." (NAS)

Luke 11:2 "And He said to them, "When you pray, say: `Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come." (NAS)

Luke 18:1 "Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,"

Luke 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer." (NAS)

Luke 22:40 "And when He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Luke 22:41 "And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and {began} to pray," (NAS)

Luke 22:46 "and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation." (NAS)

Acts 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you." (NAS)

TOPICAL STUDIES

GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS



Acts 8:24 “But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." (NAS)

Acts 10:9 “And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.” (NAS)

Rom 8:26 “And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words;” (NAS)

1 Cor 11:13 “Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God {with head} uncovered?” (NAS)

1 Cor 14:13 “Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.” (NAS)

1 Cor 14:14 “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.” (NAS)

1 Cor 14:15 “What is {the outcome} then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.” (NAS)

2 Cor 12: 7-8 “I entreated the Lord 3 times that it (thorn in the flesh) might depart from me”

2 Cor 13:7 “Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we should appear unapproved.” (NAS)

2 Cor 13:9 “For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete.” (NAS)

Eph 1:18 “{I pray that} the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” (NAS)

Eph 3:16 Strengthened, 17 - Christ may dwell in your heart, 18 – comprehension, 19 – know the love of Christ

Phil 1:9-10 knowledge, discernment, sincere, blameless

I Thes 5:17 Pray w/o ceasing

II Thes 3:1-3 strengthened & protected from the evil one

1Thes 5:25 Brethren, pray for us. (NAS)

II Th 1:11 “To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power;”

II Th 3:1 “Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as {it did} also with you;” (NAS)

- 1 Tim 2:1 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties {and} prayers, petitions {and} thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men," (NAS)
- 1 Tim 2:8 "Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."
- 1 Tim 4:5 "for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer." (NAS)
- 1 Tim 5:5 "Now she who is a widow indeed, and who has been left alone has fixed her hope on God, and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day." (NAS)
- 2 Tim 1:3 "I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day," (NAS)
- Phile 1:4 "I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers," (NAS)
- Phile 1:6 "{and I pray} that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake." (NAS)
- Phile 1:22 "And at the same time also prepare me a lodging; for I hope that through your prayers I shall be given to you." (NAS)
- Heb 5:7 "In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety." (NAS)
- Heb 13:18 "Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things." (NAS)
- James 1:5 wisdom
- James 4:2-3 Asking for wrong motives
- James 5:13 "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises." (NAS)
- James 5:14 "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;" (NAS)
- James 5:15 "and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."
- James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." (NAS)
- James 5:17 "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months."

James 5:18 "And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit."
(NAS)

1 Pet 3:7 "You husbands likewise, live with {your wives} in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." (NAS)

1 Pet 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (NAS)

1 Pet 4:7 "The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer." (NAS)

3 Jn 1:2 "Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."

Jude 1:20 "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;" (NAS)

Rev 5:8 "And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

Rev 8:3 "And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne."

Rev 8:4 "And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand."

SUMMARY OF THINGS PRAYED FOR IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matt 5:44: Those who persecute you

Matt 6: Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, give us daily bread, forgive our debts, lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil

Matt. 21:22: everything in belief

Eph. 3:16: strengthened

Eph 3:18: comprehension

Eph 3:19: know the love of Christ

Phil 1:9-11: knowledge, disenchantment, approve the excellent, Sincere, blameless

Phil 4:19: "my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (A statement, not a prayer)

I Thes 5:17: w/o ceasing

TOPICAL STUDIES

GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS



Heb. 13:18: One another, good conscience

James 1:5: Wisdom

James 4:15 "If the lord wills"

James 5:13: Suffering

James 5:14: Sick

James 5:15: Restore one who is sick

James 5:16: One another, healing

James 5:17-18: rain drought

I John 1:9, Matt 6:15-16 forgiveness

3 John 1:2: prosper and be in good health

SPECIFICALLY ANSWERED PRAYERS

Romans 1:10 to come to you (went)

Acts 12:5 answered

SPECIFICALLY NOT ALLOWED

II Cor 12:7-8 entreated for the removal of Paul's thorn in the flesh

'We don't know why God chose them'



Associated Press

Rescue workers surround the accident site after a bus and trailer was being towed by a pickup and broke away, killing six girls on the bus and a passenger in the pickup.

Church mourns 6 girls killed in crash

Bus driver tells crowd:
'There was no suffering'

By **EVAN MOORE**
Houston Chronicle

LUBBOCK — The man who was driving the church bus in which six teen-age girls were killed Sunday told a crowd of 3,000 Monday night that his memory of the accident was one of "peace and serenity."

"There was no screaming, no suffering," said Green Lawn Church of Christ youth minister David Faze.

Faze was driving from a church retreat in Artesia, N.M., Sunday afternoon when a pickup pulling a trailer swerved into his lane and struck the bus.

"There was nothing I could do but try to stay on the road," Faze told mourners gathered in Lubbock Municipal Auditorium.



Associated Press

A crowd of friends and church members assembles outside Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock to mourn the death of six girls killed in the bus accident.

See **CRASH** on Page 18A.

Crash

Continued from Page 17A.

The trailer tore into the side of the bus, killing the six girls, ranging in age from 13 to 16, who were seated nearest the windows on that side.

"As the bus came to a stop, I undid my seatbelt and looked back," Faze said. "The kids were all calm. They were comforting each other.

"I remember the moment and I remember the peace, and I am here to tell you I hope you die that way, with no regrets and you know where your soul is going."

They were bound for Lubbock on U.S. 82 about 1:30 p.m. when a west-bound pickup, driven by Lawrence Matthews, 75, of Dewey, Ariz., swerved and Matthews' trailer hit the bus.

Killed were Heather Bauman, 13, daughter of Arthur and Suzanne Bauman of Tahoka; Megan Flynn, daughter of John and Elaine Flynn of Wolford; Talitha Beeman, 16, daughter of Tom and Brenda Beeman; Sara English, 15, daughter of Jady and Susan English; Sarah Johnson, 14, daughter of Keith and Lori Johnson, and Astyn Qubty, daughter of Johnny and Diane Qubty, all of Lubbock.

Four other girls were injured in the wreck. Three of those were still in an Alamogordo hospital. The fourth was in critical condition with head injuries at Albuquerque University Hospital.

William Libby, 60, of Albuquerque, a passenger in a pickup traveling behind the bus, also was killed in the accident.

The six girls, members of various churches in the Lubbock area, had all been part of a group of 80 who participated in the two-day retreat. They were among 28 persons riding

in the bus.

"It's just tragic. They were all happy, vibrant young people," said Shelley Parnell, a church sponsor who had attended the gathering with the teen-agers. "We don't know why God chose them."

Parnell said she had met Astyn Qubty during the weekend function and marveled at the 14-year-old's exuberance. Qubty, who attended Lubbock Christian Junior High, played volleyball and basketball at the school, as well as being an active member of the Green Lawn Church of Christ youth group.

"She seemed to have so many friends," said Parnell. "She was always happy, never down. I wondered, 'Is she always this up?'"

Megan Flynn, a freshman who played the flute in the Tahoka High School band, also was described as active in her church.

"She was involved in practically every church activity," said Alva Conklin, minister of the Wolford Church of Christ. "She was just so likeable as a person and shined as a Christian so much that she influenced a lot of other kids.

"She was just an outstanding young person."

Sarah Johnson, an eighth-grader at Smylie Wilson Junior High in Lubbock, participated in volleyball, basketball and track. She had been selected "teen of the month" at Smylie Wilson for May.

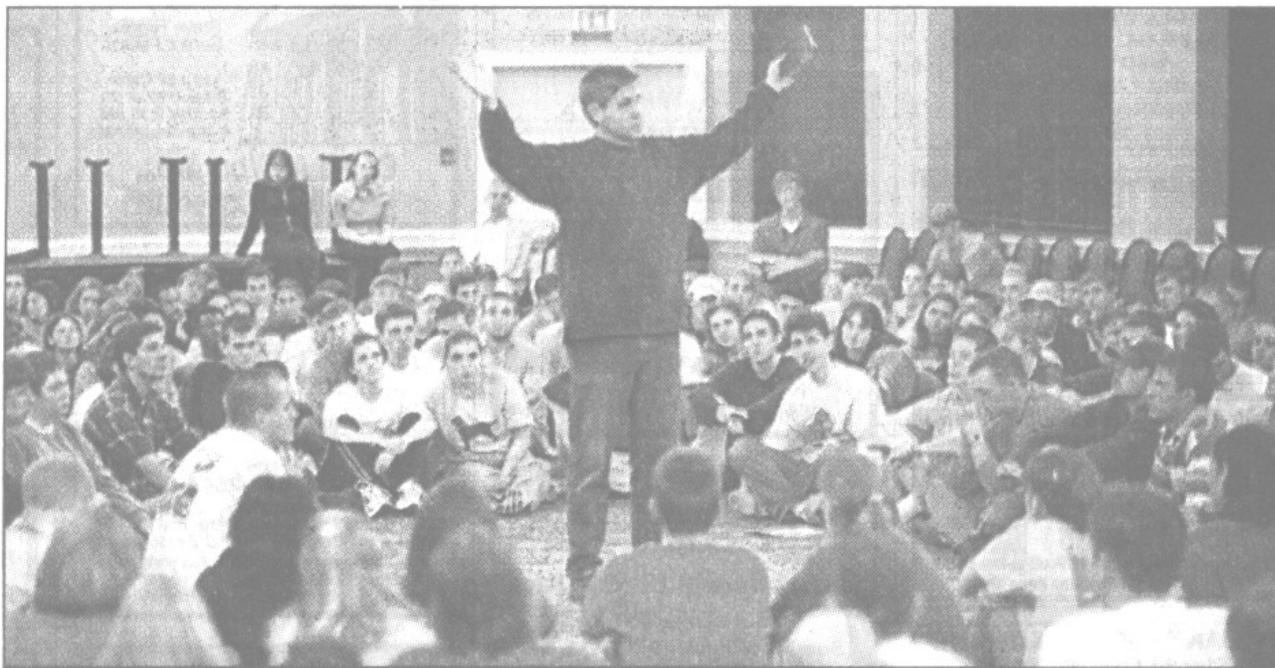
"We know this could have been worse, and we are thankful that the Lord saw fit to spare some of those on the bus," Dale Mannon, minister at Green Lawn, told The Associated Press. "We are comforted by the fact that these girls were on a trip in which they were celebrating and strengthening their faith.

"They were spending time with the Lord, and now they are with the Lord."

We normally see people ascribing to God the positive events in their lives and do not make the obvious conclusion that if God is choosing the positive, He is at least granting His O.K. for the bad things that happen in your life. In this case the sponsors believed that God specifically chose which ones were to die. It does not seem reasonable to go to a parent and tell them that God chose for your child to die.

Basketball player's illness raises issue of faith

By **MARTA W. ALDRICH**
Associated Press



Earl Lavender leads a weekly prayer group at David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. Kaia

Jergenson, a freshman basketball player, was struck with meningitis and lost both legs.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kaia Jergenson was pumping iron in the weight room. It was the beginning of the new year, and the 6-foot-2 freshman basketball player at Lipscomb University had returned to campus early from the holiday break for practices.

She was feeling optimistic. "Things are really starting to click for me," she told coach Frank Bennett.

But that night, she developed a chill, then vomited and called her mother to warn she probably had a stomach virus.

The next day, Kaia (pronounced KY'juh) was hospitalized, unconscious and in critical condition — her life in the balance from meningococcal meningitis, a bacterial infection in her bloodstream.

Her family released a statement asking for prayers.

Prayer is part of the fabric of Lipscomb University. Associated with the Churches of Christ, the four-year liberal arts school requires its 2,600 students to attend daily chapel services and Bible studies. Many professors open class with prayer, and informal devotional groups meet throughout each week.

As students heard of Kaia's sudden illness, restoring her health became their daily supplication.

"In every prayer I hear, Kaia is at the top of the list," said Rachel Lavender, president of the Student Government Association. "All over campus, before we go to sleep, when we wake up, she's in our hearts."

Several students quickly organized a round-the-clock prayer vigil, asking classmates to sign up to pray for Kaia in 10-minute segments.

"We wanted at least one person to be praying for Kaia at all hours of the day," said Pat Ford, a sophomore computer science and Bible major from Athens, Ga.

"I worried the overnight hours wouldn't get covered and had planned myself to fill whatever segments were free. But it filled right up. In fact, some spots were double- and triple-signed."

It was a powerful expression of faith. And the students expected results.

"I wanted to see Kaia wake up, be healed and walk out of that hospital," said Chris Nelms, 20, who had the 4:40 a.m. shift. "I prayed that I'd one day see her running the basketball court again."

Scriptures were clear, the students felt.