

## GROUP LIFE QUESTIONS- Does Prayer Change Things?

Let's use the quote from Yancey's book on prayer to get started...

"If prayer stands as the place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer. Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge."

—Philip Yancey *Prayer (Zondervan, 2006)*

Does prayer change things? ABSOLUTELY Read James 5:16-18

When was the last time you know that you had a prayer answered?

What effect did that have on your subsequent prayers?

Share with the group one thing that you are praying about that hasn't been answered.

Does prayer change things? NOT ALWAYS

Review the examples that Scott mentioned.

-Jesus in Matthew 26:36-46

-Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

When was the last time that you had a prayer that you know God didn't answer the way you hoped He would?

Did you experience a transformation of attitude toward the circumstance that God chose not to change as you had hoped? Tell us about that.

It's interesting that the "sin obstacle" comes up once again in this context. Look once again at James 5:16a and 1 Kings 18:36-39.

-Does anyone have need of confession of personal sin before we pray together?

-Do we have need of corporate confession? Have we gotten off track as a group?

Close with a time of sharing prayer requests and expecting God to change some things!

