

# Does prayer work?

Thought capture sheet for our prayer 'wheels within wheels' discussion. Fill in the 14 boxes thoughtfully.

What we discussed:	What other people said:	What I think:
<p>A. "Prayer, basically, doesn't work. Either God is not listening (or does not exist?) Or God is not persuaded to do anything because we ask it. I don't believe in prayer."</p>		
<p>B. "Prayer is not magic, but it is a spiritual practice with some power. You can use prayer to make a difference. I do believe it is not a waste of time and effort."</p>		
<p>C. "The main point of prayer is not to get God to do what you want. It's to find out what God wants you to do, and get the strength and love in your heart to try and do it."</p>		

What we discussed:	What other people said:	What I think:
<p>D. “Some prayers are answered. This shows God is good. Some prayers are not. This is because God is wise and does not give us everything we want. God’s like your parents: they know better, sometimes, than to give you every Mars Bar you ask for. Same with God.”</p>		
<p>E. “Prayer is quite manipulative. If a nurse, for example, says to a patient ‘Would you like me to pray for you?’ then the patient may feel very uncomfortable. This sort of thing should be banned. Christians who are nurses should be more professional (there have been recent cases of this in the news).”</p>		
<p>F. “Praying for someone else is a kind and generous thing to do – like giving them a gift of your time and care. It is good to pray for people (even if there is no God to listen).”</p>		
<p>G. “Prayer is a psychological tool. Never mind if ‘God is listening’ or not: prayer makes people happier, and gives calmness and comfort to those who pray. If it has these effects, why knock it?”</p>		