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## **KEEP PRAYING, KEEP TRUSTING**

***“When he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it.” (Luke 19:41)***

**We have it on firm scriptural authority that the Father’s response to requests faithfully, humbly, hopefully, expectantly made by his own children, out of a pure heart and an honest desire for God’s glory, is never going to be a flat no.** One way or another God’s response will be positive, though it may be, “I am adjusting the terms of your prayer to give you something better than you asked for.” Or it may be, “I know this isn’t the moment in which answering your prayer would bring you and others the most blessing, so I’m asking you to wait.” Or, “I am answering your prayer, but it doesn’t at the moment feel or look like an answer at all. Nonetheless, it is. Keep praying, keep trusting, and keep looking for what, down the road, I may be able in wisdom to let you see.”

**This is not to imply, however, that the pain of seemingly unanswered prayer – will ever be eliminated entirely from our lives as long as we are here on earth.** Scripture seems clearly to indicate the contrary, particularly in connection with persons close to us.

**Petitionary prayer makes a difference; in heaven we will find what difference our prayers made, and here on earth we are to go on praying for the physical and spiritual needs of others as love and compassion prompt us.** But the pain of not seeing all the changes in people that we long to see is something we have to live with at present. **The Lord Jesus himself knew this particular heartache, as his tears over Jerusalem showed (Matthew 23:37-38; Luke 19:41-42).** We will find that Jesus our Master upholds us when our experience of disappointments after praying comes close to his. **AMEN.**

**~Dr. J. I. Packer**

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

