

Praying for the Unconverted If God elects, why pray?

Dr. Jerry Nelson

www.SoundLiving.org

The answer to that question is not as direct as I could wish. Several statements bring us to a conclusion:

1. We are commanded, encouraged, and privileged to pray - to make petitions of our God (I Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray continually!" and other verses)
2. We are told that prayer is one of the means God has ordained by which he acts (James 5:16 "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." Somehow God incorporates our prayers into his sovereign working. This is a mystery to me but I know God commands us to pray.
3. We are told to pray for those things which are God's will. John 14:13 "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." (See also John 15:7 for the same idea - our prayers need to be consistent with his will, his word.
4. God's will is that those he has chosen will come to Jesus and be granted eternal life. John 6:37-40 "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And **this is the will of him who sent me**, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For **my Father's will** is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."
5. We are specifically told to pray for boldness in witness and for more workers to witness. Ephesians 6:19-20 "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Luke 10:2 "He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Conclusion: Praying for the unsaved is not only proper but important. Prayer is a means God uses to accomplish his purposes. We don't know who God will effectively call but it is not our place to know; it is our place to pray, to witness and trust God's purposes and power.

John 14:13 "And I will do **whatever you ask in my name**, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

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