

# The problem of healing prayers

One of the great conundrums of this season is what to do with prayer - particularly prayers for healing:

How should I pray?

What to do when others pray?

And how to react when circumstances don't align with the prayers prayed?

I am still processing, but there are several things that I have hung my hat on:

1. I am going to pray regardless of how things go. Giving up on praying because it's not bringing the results I hoped for is like giving up on sleeping because you still feel tired in the AM.
2. I receive prayer from others as deposits of love. When someone prays for me, I experience it as their way of saying "Piet, I love you enough to reach out for God on your behalf - because I want you around a little longer!" If prayer doesn't do anything more than that (and I have to believe it does), it is still a beautiful gift!
3. I don't fully understand how it works, but prayer also opens my eyes and ears to God's work in the midst of all this. I think it's immature and short-sighted to put God in a box and say, "Unless he does this/that, he isn't working!" In many instances (though initially disappointed by a particular report) I have seen God at work through a side door. Even if it was a painful door - it was still a step toward deeper healing or some other redemptive opportunity.

And so, I'm going to keep praying for God to do his good work. Regardless of the specific outcomes, I'm asking for the grace to take what comes as an expression of his mercy. I know he has the capacity to heal. And should he choose to do a miracle, I will gladly receive it and give him glory for it. If not, I will do my best to try and find the redemptive possibilities in it... to find hope in his love for me and take every opportunity to be a positive influence on those I meet along the way.

Lord lead on!



Pastor Piet