WHY PRAY?

2 Chronicles 7:14—...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (NIV)

The biggest word in this verse is the first and is the most challenging ... IF
- Meaning: We might not pray...not supposed to be optional but there is a choice
- Also Meaning: If we follow through and take up the directive of this verse to Humble, pray, seek and turn... He will hear forgive and heal

TCC - The whole world can be healed... IF
Is it really that cut and dry? Is the church really that instrumental...

If so... why wouldn't we?

Sovereignty of God

Sovereignty - God has supreme reign... Not God can do whatever He wants... vast difference
- As the supreme ruler God - delegated His earthly authority to human kind...
  - God as the supreme ruler ... has vested His authority on the earth to His people
    - Those who have the same characteristics ... those called by His name...
      - possessing the keys of the kingdom... binding and loosing

The stewardship is ours... if my people... the ones I have delegated earthly authority

TCC- Why pray? We have been given the authority to call on the supreme ruler in the universe ... to bind and loose... to use the keys of His kingdom!!
To put into motion His plan and will on the earth in the earth

He said about His people … if we would humble ourselves and pray that he would hear from heaven

Immutability-

- To mutate meant to change immutability is something never changes
- M/U- God can never change His mind…

The immutability is not about God never changing His mind… TCC - it’s about His unchanging character

God absolutely can and does change His mind…. And TCC …that’s exactly why we should be praying

Deut 9:18 – Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD’s sight and so arousing his anger. 19 I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the LORD listened to me. (NIV)

Exodus 32:9-14 9 “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”… 11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,”… 14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. (NIV)

God sends Jonah to the wicked city of Nineveh… in 40 days I am going to destroy your city … but after the people heard Jonahs message they repented… God changed His mind … Jonah was not happy

Jonah 4:2 – He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. (NIV)
• He said He would destroy the City in 40 days… **The people repented… He relented**

Why? He changed His mind… When he saw the change of Heart…

TCC- Why pray? ... because God who’ character IS UNCHANGING… He listens and changes His mind based on the people seeking Him!!

**We Pray Because God Sovereign… Because God is immutable…Changeless**

• God cannot and will not change His character. He is who He is. God listens and cares. … this is why we should pray

Rom 12:1… in view of Gods mercy *(unchanging character)*… offer your bodies as living sacrifices

TCC- The world is in the middle of a pandemic… **Q** What if we prayed?… **Q** what if the church of the most sovereign called on His name.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

**Q.** Why don’t we pray?

**Q.** What does God’s immutability (His unchanging character) mean for you personally?

**Q.** What do we do when our prayers are not answered the way we prayed?