

# Is prayer a waste of time?

Robert Aged 10 (Y7)

For some people prayer is a waste of time, for others it is not. Prayer is a very personal and individual subject; it is a person's beliefs that make it time well spent or a waste of time.

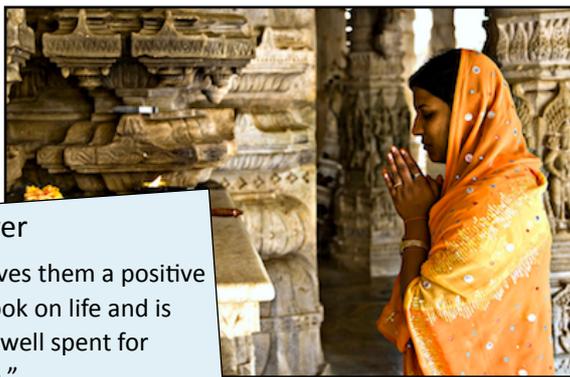
The people who believe prayer is a waste of time are usually those who have asked for something and not received but is prayer really to be seen as a method of having wishes granted? I don't think so. I don't believe in God as a fairy godmother who will make all our dreams come true. However much we pray that God heals everyone who is sick, it simply can't happen. Death is the only certainty in life and God cannot make us all immortal; if that's what we pray for then that's a waste of time but if we pray for guidance in the face of illness or death then that can't be a waste of time.



"I don't believe in God as a fairy godmother who will make all our dreams come true."

Despite people praying to win the lottery, I've never heard of it happening. So if that's what you pray for then my advice is don't bother.

I really believe prayer for material goods is a waste of time; no matter which religion you belong to, I don't think any God would act to satisfy human greed in this way.



## Prayer

"It gives them a positive outlook on life and is time well spent for them."

For many others I believe prayer is time well spent. Muslims pray five times a day – an awful lot of time if it is a waste but they believe that is what their God wants them to do.

For people who pray for comfort and get it, prayer becomes an important part of their life. It gives them a positive outlook on life and is time well spent for them. Some see it as a way of communicating and spending time with their God and

spending quality time with those they are closest to could never be a waste of time. Contrary to the fact we may not believe in the power of prayer ourselves, if someone we love asks us to pray for them, how could we refuse?

## Is prayer a waste of time?

Praying also has a social aspect when it is done in prayer groups. People who may not have friends or relatives close to them may get comfort from the social gathering of like-minded people who pray together. In answer to the original question, is prayer a waste of time? I would have to say it depends who is praying and also what they are asking for.

The value of prayer depends on the relationship with the God they are praying to. If you see God as a wish granter, it's a waste of time. If you pray as part of your belief, for comfort and strength or the comfort of others, then how can that possibly be a waste of time?



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