***‘Getting To Know Pastor Joe’ Columns #12***

**“Is it God’s response to prayer, or was it just meant to be?”**

In our spiritual lives, when things happen just as we prayed, we often wonder, "Is this truly an answer to prayer, or was it simply meant to happen this way?" For instance, when we pray for the healing of someone who is ill, and they recover, we may believe it's a response from God. Yet, we might also think, "Could it be due to the medicine or the doctor's care, rather than just our prayers?"

Scientifically, there's no way to prove supernatural events in the Bible or answers to prayers because science is about observing natural phenomena and discovering principles. Supernatural events occur just once and can't be replicated or studied through scientific methods.

Our belief in the supernatural events we experience in our faith isn't based on scientific proof but on the promises of God.

People sometimes break their promises, especially if it’s not in their favor. But our God is faithful. God’s faithfulness means that He always keeps His promises.

There's no way to 'prove' that our prayers caused something to happen. However, Jesus promised that our prayers in His name would be answered (John 16:24). When we see our prayers answered just as we've asked in Jesus' name, we confess by faith that God has responded to our prayers. (As a note, always pray in the name of Jesus, who is the only one who connects us directly to God.)

Beyond doubts about prayer, we might also question, "Is God really alive?" "Is God truly all-powerful?" "Does God really love me?" Doubting isn't a sign of lack of faith; rather, it shows that faith is present because those without faith don't experience doubt. However, it's crucial to handle doubts carefully, as they can lead to sin if not addressed properly.

When doubts arise, don't dwell on them or let them dominate. Instead, turn to the Bible and meditate on God's promises there. Without reading the Bible, we wouldn't know the promises God has made. That's why as children of God, we need to read the Bible daily.

Without engaging with the Scriptures and praying, we can't grow closer to God and may miss out on the tremendous blessings promised to us.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, pray not only to receive what you desire but to enjoy a close fellowship with God, who loves you incredibly. Our God delights in responding to our prayers and always answers them in the best way possible for us. Hallelujah!❤️