

Why Ailing Loved Ones Die in Spite of Our Prayers

Sometimes we pray for loved ones who are on their sickbeds and holding on to life. We do our part to successfully lead them to Christ in their state, and then cry out to Him to keep them alive. We would be right, if we then say that they have become new creatures, since they surrendered to Christ, and deserve to live. But then, our loved ones are gone, shortly after, and we are disheartened. We then wonder if God truly heard our prayers.

Yes, God did hear our prayers (James 5:16, Proverbs 15:8). Contrary to human thinking, God did not literally "kill" our saved loved ones. It is a fact that God kills and makes alive (1 Samuel 2:6), but He would not take a saved soul without a good reason, even though He has the prerogative to take it whenever He wants. He is not a cruel God. He cares, when a person falls ill; He feels our pain, when we grieve the loss of a loved one.

Those who sincerely and completely surrendered to Jesus Christ before they departed were indeed saved – it was not as early as we had wished, but it was not too late neither to turn to Him (Luke 23:39-43). However, the Lord knows the end from the beginning. There are two possible reasons the All-Knowing God would choose to call our loved ones to glory:

(1) As a Merciful God, He kept them alive till their very long dying days for one reason: To do the needful and inherit eternal life – that was settled when they surrendered to Jesus Christ.

(2) Some of our ailing loved ones got healed for real, but then passed away just as we began to give praise reports. He may have taken them because He knew how they would end up if he kept them alive. He knew that they would later backslide and turn out worse than they were before they got saved. He then, in His infinite mercy, called them to be with Him as soon as they surrendered to Christ. It is possible to get saved and backslide down the road. The Bible speaks about it as, "a dog turning back to its own vomit" (2 Peter 2:20-22). Peradventure, our loved ones may not have the opportunity to make things right if they backslide in future, before death finally comes calling.

Other reasons God calls back saved souls are hidden to us and known to Him alone (Deuteronomy 29:29). Take heart, beloved, if your departed ones sincerely and completely surrendered to Jesus Christ before they left. It hurts; but find comfort in the fact that you shall see them again in glory (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). Rest assured, they have found peace, and are in a better place.

Shalom!