

### Chapter 1 : Martin Truex Jr.: "I'm telling you, God is testing us."

*Of all the honest feelings and emotions this sermon series has explored - things like sadness, fear, success, etc. - likely none has such dramatic implications for our relationships with others as does this morning's topic: telling God about our pettiness.*

Does God Answer Our Prayers? How does prayer work? Find out what God will answer When I was an atheist, I had a good friend who prayed often. She would tell me every week about something she was trusting God to take care of. And every week I would see God do something unusual to answer her prayer. Do you know how difficult it is for an atheist to observe this week after week? After a while, "coincidence" begins to sound like a very weak argument. The biggest reason is that she had a relationship with God. She wanted to follow God. And she actually listened to what he said. In her mind, God had the right to direct her in life, and she welcomed him doing just that! When she prayed for things, it was a natural part of her relationship with God. She felt very comfortable coming to God with her needs, her concerns, and whatever issues were current in her life. Furthermore, she was convinced, from what she read in the Bible, that God wanted her to rely on him like that. She pretty much exhibited what this statement from the Bible says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: They may know that God exists, and they might even worship God from time to time. Further, they have never received from God complete forgiveness for their sin. What does that have to do with it you ask? Here is an explanation. But your iniquities have separated you from your God. Your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. When people begin to ask God for something, what usually takes place? They begin with, "God, I really need your help with this problem They might not know that they can come into a relationship with God so that God will hear them. This is the foundation for God answering your prayer. How Does Prayer Work? You must first begin a relationship with God. Imagine that a guy named Mike asks the president of Princeton University to co-sign a car loan for him. Yet, if the daughter of this president asked her dad to co-sign a car loan for her, it would be no problem. With God, when the person is actually a child of God, when the person belongs to God, he knows them and hears their prayers. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. Do you have a relationship with him that warrants God answering your prayers? Or is God pretty distant, pretty much just a concept in your life? For those who do know him and rely on him, Jesus seems to be wildly generous in his offer: Here is another qualifier: And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him. And this is where it gets tough. We live within the limits of time and limits of knowledge. We have only limited information about a situation and the implications of future action on that situation. How an event plays out in the course of life or history is only something he knows. And he may have purposes far beyond what we could even imagine. So, God is not going to do something simply because we determine that it must be his will. What Does It Take? What is God Inclined to Do? The entire Bible is a description of the kind of relationship God wants us to experience with him and the kind of life he wants to give us. Here are just a few examples: He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for [trust] him! Like someone rising out of his chair to come to your help, "He rises to show you compassion. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends,"<sup>10</sup> which is what Jesus did for us. And so, "If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Certainly people get sick, even die; financial problems are real, and all sorts of very difficult situations can come up. God tells us to give our concerns to him. Even as the situation remains dismal, "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. When the whole world seems to be falling apart, God can keep us together. This is when a person can be very grateful that they know God. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Probably any Christian could list examples like this in their own lives. But if the circumstances do not improve, God can still give us his peace in the midst of it. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace

I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. It is based on the very character of God. A car traveling on the Golden Gate Bridge is fully supported by the integrity of the bridge. What gets the car safely to the other side is the integrity of the bridge, which the driver was willing to trust. In the same way, God asks us to trust his integrity, his character He says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. He asks us to take any concerns to him in prayer and he will act upon it according to his will. As we deal with difficulties we are to cast our cares on him and receive from him a peace that defies the circumstances. The basis for our hope and faith is the character of God himself. The better we know him, the more apt we are to trust him. For more on the character of God, please see "Who is God? The first prayer God answers is your prayer to begin a relationship with God.

### Chapter 2 : What does the Bible say about pettiness?

*8 First of all, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. 9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of his Son, is my witness that I continuously remember you 10 and I always ask in my prayers, if perhaps now at last I may succeed in visiting you in the will of God.*

On your Christian walk of faith you will go through some bumps, but it builds you. God will help us in our time of need just like He helped others. Through all the hard times God has never forsaken me. Trust in Him with all your heart. Jesus said you will have peace through Him in your trials. Build your prayer life! Continually talk to God, thank Him, and ask Him for help. Fast and instead of thinking about your problems keep your mind on Christ. Of the Sons of Korah. God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. Pray, Pray, Pray 6. I will rescue and honor them. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Then he must pray. He is to sing praises. It is not meaningless. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. In this world you will have trouble. I have overcome the world. God of comfort He will not forsake you. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world. Signup today and receive encouragement, updates, help, and more straight in your inbox.

### Chapter 3 : Keep Us From Pettiness - Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large

*Pettiness, however, is an attitude that leads to bad behavior. It is an undue concern for trivial matters resulting in arguments or spiteful behavior. The word petty did not originate as a disparaging word, but it has evolved to become associated with small-mindedness and "making a mountain out of a molehill."*

They forced me to learn from your textbook. Truth from your mouth means more to me than striking it rich in a gold mine. The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you - depending on how you respond to them. Unfortunately, most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring. Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in your life: Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something - health, money, a relationship - by losing it. It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws. Last year a friend of mine was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem - but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when his boss actions were uncovered. You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. We can rejoice when we run into problems they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady. God is at work in your life - even when you do not recognize it or understand it. Article by Rick Warren, Saddleback Church.

Chapter 4 : Sermons about Pettiness - calendrierdelascience.com

*"The creation of man is evidence for the love of God, the preservation of man is evidence for the patience of God, and Christ is evidence for the forgiveness of God. It is when we are wrapped up in our own little peevishness that we begin to displace His benevolence with malevolence."*

We have been planning on this move for more than a year, but in spite of all of our good intentions and preparations, some of our plans are going to change. God is sovereign, and that probably means that He will be sure to remind us of this fact by changing our final plans at least once. We will do so by looking at his Epistle to the Romans chapters 1 and 15 and the Book of Acts. I serve the gospel of God like a priest, so that the offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. So from Jerusalem even as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. For I hope to visit you when I pass through and that you will help me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are obligated also to minister to them in material things. When Paul wrote his Epistle to the Romans, he wrote to saints who lived in a place Paul had never yet visited, and thus where he had never preached. He wrote with apostolic authority to a church that he did not establish. From the final chapter of Romans, it is clear, however, that Paul was well acquainted with a number of people who lived there at the time of its writing. These were people for whom Paul prayed individually and frequently, in addition to his prayers for the church corporately. Paul informed these folks that he greatly rejoiced over their salvation and subsequent growth in the faith. He told them that he had wanted to come visit them for some time, but had not yet been able to do so. Paul had a plan in mind, a plan that God was soon to revise. His plan, as stated in Romans 15, was to proceed to Jerusalem, where he would present the contribution from the Gentile churches to the Jewish leaders of the church in Jerusalem. He then intended to make his way to Rome, where he would spend some time with them, before being sent on his way by them to Spain. He asked the saints in Rome to pray that his ministry to those in Jerusalem might be well received, that he might be delivered from those who opposed him and the gospel, and that he might come to them to be refreshed by them. We were going to take a trip to Montana, where we would camp in Glacier National Park using a tent and equipment borrowed from my aunt. From Glacier Park, we planned to proceed to visit some of our relatives in Montana. I still have the picture of our family, posing in front of our tent, joyful and optimistic, ready for our first night of camping. A few hours later, it became a very different scene. A mountain storm blew in, with lightning and rain. No one had told us about facing our tent in the right direction, or about pitching it on high ground. And so when the rains poured down, they came in the tent door, and as the water gathered, we found ourselves in an inch or more of water. Our sleeping bags were soaking wet, and we were all wet and muddy. My brother sang Jesus Loves Me at the top of his lungs, and although this gave us comfort, it did not make us warm or dry. Hurriedly, we waded up the tent and our sleeping bags and stuffed them into the trunk of our car. We made our way to a motel, where we cleaned up and spent the remainder of the night. We were a mess! He had hoped for a warm welcome in Jerusalem and then a leisurely trip to Rome. He looked forward to a time of fellowship and refreshment there in Rome, before he set out for Spain. He was eager to preach the gospel in Rome, as well as to minister to the saints who were there. He anticipated being refreshed as they ministered to him as well. Paul did get to Rome, but in a very different way. His trip to Rome was anything but peaceful and enjoyable. All of this did not come as a complete surprise. When Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, it was revealed to him through Ananias that he would preach to many, including kings, but this would involve considerable suffering for him as well. It was not long, however, before the Holy Spirit began to reveal to Paul and to others what this trip to Jerusalem would entail: For I am ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, the leaders of the church in Jerusalem welcomed him. Paul reported to them how God had brought many Gentiles to faith in Jesus. They reminded Paul about the multitude of Jews who had come to faith, and that these believers were still committed to keeping the law. These Jewish brethren had been told that Paul was teaching the Jews who lived among the Gentiles to forsake the law. In order to preserve peace

and unity, the elders of the church in Jerusalem proposed a plan of action, which would show those who were skeptical that he had not forsaken his Jewish roots. They counseled Paul to take four of the Jewish young men who were under a vow, and to purify himself and offer sacrifices, along with them, paying their expenses as well as his own. It was not a bad idea. In theory, it would accomplish what they hoped for—it would put to rest the fears that Paul was completely forsaking his Jewish roots. But God had other plans. When Paul accompanied these men to the temple, some Asian Jews who had come there to worship saw Paul and recognized him. Apparently these men had come to know Paul while he, and they, were in Asia. I am assuming that these folks were unbelievers, who were opposed to Paul and to the gospel he preached. When they saw Paul in the temple, they hastily jumped to a false conclusion. Having seen Trophimus the Ephesian a Gentile with Paul in the city of Jerusalem, they assumed that he was also with Paul in the temple. From the false assumption that Paul had taken Trophimus with him into the temple, they went on to announce to their Jewish brethren that Paul was seeking to turn Jews from Judaism. Ironically, the false charges they made against Paul were very similar to those made against our Lord Luke. The Jews were convinced that Paul had desecrated the temple and began to beat him, fully intending to kill him. Had someone not summoned the Roman soldiers, Paul would have been killed. When the Roman troops brought the crowds under control, Paul asked the commander if he could address the mob that had gathered. When he shared the testimony of his conversion, the people listened intently until he spoke these words: For he should not be allowed to live! The Roman commander decided to let the Jewish religious leaders handle this situation, and so Paul was brought before the Sanhedrin. It did not take Paul very long to determine that he would receive no justice from this body, and so he cried out that he was a Pharisee who believed in the resurrection of the dead. This divided the Sanhedrin, which was made up of Pharisees, who also believed in the resurrection of the dead, and Sadducees, who did not. A great debate brought this distinguished body to blows, so that the commander had to rescue Paul from their grasp and place him in the barracks for safekeeping. That night Paul was visited by the Lord in a vision: He will testify of Jesus Christ in Rome, but accompanied by suffering. This plot was reported to the Roman commanding officer who, acting promptly and decisively, sent Paul under heavy guard by night to Caesarea. Here, Paul was to remain two years before he was finally sent on to Rome. Here in Caesarea, Paul had the opportunity to proclaim the gospel to Felix, and to Festus, his successor. Both men sought to avoid pronouncing a verdict, wishing to appease the Jewish leaders, and in the case of Felix, hoping to receive a bribe from Paul. When Festus sought to persuade Paul to return to Jerusalem, to stand trial there, Paul felt he was forced to appeal to Caesar. He knew all too well that the Jews in Jerusalem intended to kill him on his way back to Jerusalem. He had one very serious problem, however—he had no formal charge against Paul. How could he possibly send Paul to stand trial before Caesar without specifying any charge against him? They knew more about Jewish law and culture; surely they could help him arrive at some kind of charge. It was yet another opportunity for Paul to give his testimony and to proclaim the gospel. Finally, Paul was sent to Rome, but this journey was not without its difficulties. Paul was taken aboard a ship that was carrying a number of other prisoners. The storm season was approaching as they came to a place called Fair Havens. Paul urged the captain of the ship and the centurion to winter there and not to attempt sailing any farther. He warned that pressing on might very well bring about great loss and perhaps even the loss of life. As there was a moderate wind at the moment, going on did not seem that dangerous, and so they put out to sea, hugging the shore of Crete. A great storm rushed down on the ship, and they were completely powerless. They simply allowed the storm to blow them where it would, casting cargo and even hardware overboard to lighten the ship and keep it afloat. Everyone but Paul had lost hope of surviving this storm. Paul informed his shipmates that God had assured him that he would stand before Caesar, and so everyone on board would be saved, though the ship would be lost. Paul urged everyone to eat to gain strength for what was ahead. Then, the ship ran aground, but in the end all were saved. Not only was Paul the hero of the day for his courage and leadership at this time of danger, he also survived a deadly snake bite and healed many on the island of Malta where they had run aground. By the time Paul reached Rome, he was both a prisoner and a hero. His plans to visit Rome had been realized, but in a way that he would never have imagined. For some in Rome, and elsewhere, this change in plans might have raised questions about Paul and about his qualifications for

ministry. Were some embarrassed by the fact that Paul was a prisoner, waiting to stand trial before Caesar? Were some tempted to keep a low profile so far as proclaiming the gospel was concerned? Indeed, his circumstances did not hinder the gospel at all; his circumstances served to advance the cause of Christ. In the early verses of Philippians, Paul tells us how this came about. We must admit that being arrested does not usually enhance the status of a person, and particularly a preacher. His enemies and the enemies of the gospel would surely use this to oppose Paul and the gospel he declared and defended. Even some who were jealous of Paul might have used his incarceration to discredit him and to enhance their own status.

**Chapter 5 : Telling God About Our Pettiness - TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths" (Proverbs ). What we are not to do is expect to hear voices from God.*

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? I speak in a human way. Suggest a Verse Enter a Verse Reference e. Unless otherwise indicated, all content is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License.

**Chapter 6 : What Does the Bible Say About Arguments?**

*Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with faultfinding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretenses and meet each other, face.*

Characterized by an unforgiving spirit and generally negative, critical attitudes, bitterness and resentment are sinful and self-defeating. They will color your conscious and unconscious thoughts and actions. Allowed to fester, they will destroy and kill Galatians 5: However, they can be dispelled with love. What Scripture Says "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" Hebrews Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" Ephesians 4: Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly" I Peter 2: But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" Matthew 6: Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. How To Be Free From Bitterness and Resentment Life depression and other emotional stress, bitterness and resentment can aggravate or cause physical problems such as arthritis. You can be affected mentally, spiritually and otherwise. Your relationships will always suffer. God can free you from this sin. It is an oppressive and destructive emotion having its root in hate, which is likened to murder. No one can have peace and happiness with such emotions tearing at him. If you have not done so, ask God to forgive you and to come into your life right now. He will deliver you from the power of the enemy Psalm If you are already a Christian, you should still ask God to forgive you for being bitter and resentful. Then ask Him to forgive anyone who may have hurt you, and toward whom you are bitter or resentful, even as He forgives you. Seek to be baptized with the Holy Spirit if you are not already. Look for opportunities to demonstrate love to the person who offended you. God forgives and forgets sin. However, you may have made your best effort to forgive and forget and find that you cannot. God can help you to cleanse your memory. Instead of remembering with malice and hurt, remember with forgiveness. Then go one step further and ask God to forgive your offender. By forgiving and then asking God to forgive your offender, you release God to bless you and the other person. As You Pray Pray in this manner: I confess this as sin and ask you to forgive me. Remind me, Lord, to not hold any more resentments, but rather to love this person. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. If you prayed that prayer, please send us an e-mail to let us know. Or you can call our National Counseling Center at We would love to talk with you and send you some literature to help you continue in your walk with the Lord.

**Chapter 7 : How to Show God You Love Him: 6 Steps (with Pictures) - wikiHow**

*God wants to have a relationship with all of us. He wants to be the number one person we come to when we run into problems, when we are scared, or need someone to talk to. God gives us the tools.*

It breaks down our relationships with others. But, when we talk to God about our pettiness, God speaks into our lives in ways that help us put things into perspective. How will we respond? Will we come to a place where we rejoice in a God of steadfast love for all or will we continue to respond with petty envy, judgment and resentment toward those who offend or threaten us? But he is not called to speak to the Israelites; but rather to residents of the Assyrian capital city, Nineveh: He sends a storm so severe it compels Jonah to confess his fault to the captain and crew. When they reluctantly throw Jonah overboard, he is swallowed up by a whale. He lives for three days inside the belly of the whale where he prays to God and repents. The whale vomits Jonah out on shore and God re-issues the call for Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time he does. They do repent and God forgives them. I pick up at the start of chapter 4: But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became hot with anger. Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. Now I contend that debate distracts us from the real power behind this fish tale for this story challenges us to accept “hook, line, and sinker” a proposal far more offensive than the suspension of the laws of nature. It challenges us to accept that God “our God” can and does extend remarkable, indiscriminate grace and mercy toward those who have offended and wounded us the most. Today marks the final Sunday in this sermon series on prayer. Father William Barry, author of the book *Praying the Truth* contends that honest prayer deepens our friendship with God. On the first week of this series I admitted to all of you that I find prayer to be the most mysterious and challenging of all spiritual practices. But Barry contends that, comparing prayer to conversation with friends can help us gain a better understanding of prayer as the building block of our relationship with God. Sometimes people attempt to turn prayer into coercion or manipulation; as if there were some magical words we could say to get God to give us what we want. But, we know that “in any mature friendship” such an approach is destructive. Friends can tell if our words are designed to control or manipulate them and such coercive speech destroys friendships. Likewise, friends grow weary over time if our talk with them is superficial or disingenuous. Conversely, when our conversations are open and honest, true friends do not object to hearing something they already know or even enduring our raw emotions. True friends share our concerns with us and rejoice in our victories with us. In a healthy friendship, the relationship grows when we speak honestly and listen carefully. So too in our friendship with God; we need to speak honestly and listen carefully. We need to strive to speak truth to God without concern that we are telling God something he already knows; without anxiety that we need to pray in a certain way with a certain attitude. Rather, we need to be authentic in expressing our true feelings to God even the ugliest ones. This morning we consider talking to God about our pettiness. Now, pettiness is not a big word in the bible and so we need to unpack a bit of what it might have been comparable to in biblical times. In other words, we need to establish some connecting point from bible culture to ours. In his book, Barry discusses pettiness in relation to envy. Now while that might be true for us today, we generally associate pettiness with something trivial and “in the ancient world” there was nothing trivial about envy. Envy was the most egregious sin; it was a desiring for oneself that which rightfully belonged to someone else; to take from them the things that were rightfully theirs; the things they needed to live. However, our modern concept of pettiness and the ancient understanding of envy do share a common connection: Of all the honest feelings and emotions this sermon series has explored “things like sadness, fear, success, etc. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria. Assyria was the nation that destroyed the ten northern tribes of Israel. In fact, they destroyed them so well, those tribes were lost for all time; wiped right off the face of the map. We see those interviews sometimes with people whose homes have been destroyed by fires or tornadoes and what do they mourn: They talk about photo albums and

keepsakes that have been in their family for generations. And now, how is God “the God of the Israelites” going to respond? How crazy is that? Jonah wants no part of it. Jonah is running away from this assignment precisely because he does know God; he knows God well enough to know how God is going to act if these Ninevites repent and Jonah cannot bear to consider that option. Now think about it; this prophet we criticize: And, when Jonah realizes innocent bystanders have gotten caught in his avoidance behavior, he comes clean so their lives will be spared. Thrown overboard, Jonah is lapped up by a fish and spit out on the shore. And Jonah repents, relents and accepts his assignment. The people repent and God forgives them. And Jonah is hot with anger. Now, one might wonder why Jonah continued to torture himself by sitting there on the edge of town under a hot sun watching this frustrating saga play out. Why not just go home and try to get on with life? But Jonah seems to be finding some warped pleasure in nursing his anger. Jonah would sooner be dead than have been a party to this nonsense. Jonah is hot with rage. But at least Jonah is honest and his honesty opens a dialogue with God. God asks Jonah about his rage: We mumble about the new guy at work and how everyone is making a fuss over him. We grit our teeth when the neighbor who declared bankruptcy last year comes home with a new boat. There has been a cosmic injustice. But, have you talked to God about it? Or, are you afraid to let your passions loose in front of your friend? And God does not chastise him. But God does challenge his mindset: Again, he is hot with his rage. Hear this portion of the story: And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals? So God drills a little deeper. Jonah is grieved about the destruction of a bush. A perspective that plants the seeds of his grace, mercy and love within us. Do we want to nurse our angers and irritations? Or will we enter into dialogue with God and allow him to challenge the source and the goal of our anger? So why are we sometimes reluctant to be honest with God about our feelings of pettiness, anger, envy and resentment? Jonah was angry; but anger can sow the seeds of transformation in our lives and those around us. If we can learn to recognize attitudes of pettiness and anger and acknowledge their presence, we can begin to learn from them. Attention to our feelings leads to discernment. Our feelings carry information we need to retrieve. When we are able to acknowledge and honestly process our feelings with a friend we can trust “say God, for example” we can experience personal transformation and change. Does it please you when you feel angry, petty or envious toward others? Is it a feeling you want to nurse? Or can you talk to God about it and listen and watch and dialogue honestly with the God who is your friend? Whitehead; Orbis Books; ; see, in particular, pp.

### Chapter 8 : Quote by Woody Allen: “If you want to make God laugh, tell him about yâ€•

*Finding your calling in life can be a source of great anxiety. We put it right up there with knowing God's will or learning our true purpose in life. Part of the confusion comes about because some people use these terms interchangeably, while others define them in specific ways. Things get muddled.*

### Chapter 9 : Prayer - How Does Prayer Work - What Will God Answer

*Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say?*