

## Prayer and Its Impact

Christian cardiologist Dr. Randolph Byrd had a great interest in knowing if prayer had a “scientifically measurable” impact on healing.

He said, “After much prayer, the idea of what to do came to me.” Over a 10-month period, a computer assigned 393 patients in the coronary care unit at San Francisco General Hospital to one of two groups.

The first group was prayed for by home prayer groups. The second group was not assigned to prayer groups. The home prayer groups were from various Christian denominations. They were given only the first names of the patients and a brief description of their diagnosis and condition. They were prayed for each day.

The prayed-for patients differed from those not prayed-for in these ways:

They were five times less likely to require antibiotics. They were three times less likely to develop fluid in the lungs. None required an artificial airway attached to a ventilator, and fewer died.

If the technique being studied had been a new drug or procedure, it certainly would have been heralded as a breakthrough. Even Dr. William Nolan, the author of a book denouncing faith healing, said: “It sounds like this study will stand up to scrutiny ... Maybe we doctors ought to be writing on our order sheets, ‘Pray three times a day.’”

No matter what a study concludes, or what the skeptics may say, praying Christians have discovered in their own personal lives that prayer works.

*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16).*

– Beecher Hunter