

## PRAYER FOR COFFEE CAKE

An overweight man decided it was time to shed a few pounds.

One morning, however, he arrived at work carrying a gigantic coffee cake. His co-workers – aware of his diet resolution – scolded him, but he smiled and said, “This is a very *special* coffee cake. I drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, ‘Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious coffee cakes, let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery.’ And sure enough, the eighth time around the block, there it was.”

This man’s prayer sounds like some of mine. If I “put out the fleece,” too often I make the condition such that it meets my desire.

In *A Lamp for My Feet*, Elisabeth Elliot writes about the relationship in prayer between our will and God’s will: “Does prayer work? The answer to that depends on one’s definition of work. It is necessary to know that a thing is in order to judge whether it works. It would be senseless, for example, to say that if a screwdriver fails to drive nails into a board it doesn’t ‘work.’ A screwdriver works very well for driving screws.

“Often, we expect to arrange things according to our whims by praying about them, and when the arrangement fails to materialize, we conclude that prayer doesn’t work. God wants our willing cooperation in the bringing of His kingdom. If ‘Thy kingdom come’ is an honest prayer, we will seek to ask for whatever contributes to that end.”

Elliot is right on target. True prayer brings a person’s will into accord with God’s will, not the other way around.

*The labor of righteousness leads to life* (Proverbs 10:16).

– Beecher Hunter