

Set the Sails

When Hudson Taylor, the famous missionary, first went to China, it was in a sailing vessel.

Very close to the shore of cannibal islands, the ship was becalmed, and it was slowly drifting shoreward, unable to go about, and the savages were eagerly anticipating a feast.

The captain came to Taylor and beseeched him to pray for the help of God. "I will," said Taylor, "provided you set your sails to catch the breeze."

The captain declined to make himself a laughing stock by unfurling the sails in a dead calm. Taylor said, "I will not undertake to pray for the vessel unless you will prepare the sails."



And so it was done.

While Taylor was engaged in prayer, there was a knock at the door of his stateroom. "Who is there?" he asked.

The captain's voice responded, "Are you still praying for the wind?" Taylor said he was.

"Well," said the captain, "you'd better stop praying, for we have more wind than we can manage."

When you pray, do you believe in the outcome? God does answer prayer, and particularly when we pray according to His will, and not ours.

– Beecher Hunter