

The Perfect Birthday Card

Recently, I read about a woman named Barbara Bartocci, who was searching for the perfect birthday card for her husband a few years ago.

She came across a promising one. On the outside it read: "Sweetheart, you're the answer to my prayers."

Then she turned to the inside, which was inscribed like this, "You're not what I prayed for exactly, but apparently you're the answer."

The message on that funny little birthday card became the Bartocci family motto over the years. Whenever a family member struggled with a setback or disappointment, someone would remark, "Well, it's not what you prayed for, but apparently it's the answer."

The Bartoccis learned to find comfort and wisdom in accepting whatever answer God sent them. That's a wise philosophy of life. Make your requests of God and then trust that whatever God sends you is within His perfect will because He loves you and wants only the best for you.

In the sixth chapter of Matthew, the disciples of Jesus wanted to know more about prayer. They weren't asking Jesus to tell them everything about prayer. They wanted to know how to go about praying. He answered their request with a model prayer – one we know, of course, as the Lord's Prayer. Jesus said:

When you pray, say: *Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen (KJV).*

God's will is always for His children's good. That is why we can trust that our prayers will be answered in a way that will be ultimately for our good. That's who God is.

– Beecher Hunter