

Faithful Prayers to a Faithful God

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I sat in my mission pastor's office days before I was scheduled to get on a plane and move thousands of miles away to South Asia, and what did I do? I cried. I don't remember exactly what he had asked me, but it was something in the ballpark of "What are you most afraid of?" My answer was simple—I was afraid of failing.

I was no more qualified to go overseas than the next person. But God had made it clear the first time I went to South Asia that I was to return, and after 2 years of praying, pleading, and trusting His timing, my opportunity had come.

Before I set foot on that plane, I had no idea if what I was about to do would bring fruit in the lives of South Asian students or if anyone would understand me when I shared the gospel. In the midst of many unknowns as I started something new, prayer became key.

Prayer sustained me before I moved to South Asia. Prayer made the ministry that God did through me possible while I was there. And prayer is how I am beginning life now that I am back home again.

Whether it's the prayers I write in my journal or the mumbled-under-my-breath prayers for patience as I write another cover letter and wait on responses for full-time jobs, God hears my prayers and He answers. He may not answer in the way I want, but I keep praying and listening to what God says, even when it is hard.

I keep praying and listening because God is faithful. That is who God tells us He is in the Bible, and we can trust Him.

In Exodus 34:6, God tells Moses His name. God is speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai and tells him that He is “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”

When we pray, we are praying to the same faithful God who shared His name with Moses. We are praying to a God who hears us when we ask, seek, and knock, searching out what He wants for us through prayer. When we commit to pray to our faithful God, we will not fail.

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**Name changed.*