

## You Might Be the Answer

Speaking grammatically, I tend to think of myself as the subject of prayer or the object of prayer. As the subject of prayer, I'm the one doing the praying: "I" am the subject of the verb "pray." "I pray for you." When I'm the object of prayer, I'm the one for whom someone is praying. "You pray for me." All well and good – and powerful!

It gives me spiritual joy to see myself as the possible answer to someone's prayer. This is not an exercise in egotism or arrogance. It's the recognition that Christ has called us and sent us into this world as His witnesses, His ambassadors, His body. Our Lord works through His people.

What are people praying for when they "present their requests to God"? Some people are praying for relief from their grief at the death of a loved one. "*God, help me deal with this sadness.*" You might be God's answer to their prayer when you phone or visit someone who has been in the prayers of the congregation. Sometimes people need a shoulder to cry on so they can release those pent-up tears. Maybe God wants you to offer your shoulder.

Some are dealing with a complex problem or life change that calls for some kind of decision, and they are praying for wisdom and discernment. "*Lord, what should I do?*" You may be God's answer when you see their furrowed brow and ask, "How's it going?" thus opening the door to prayerful conversation – where they may do most of the talking while you concentrate on listening well.

Some people, hospitalized because of illness or injury, are crying out for peace and hope. "*God, do you really care about me?*" You might be God's answer, or part of the answer, when you go to see them in the hospital, call them on the phone, or send a card. Sometimes a card is better than a visit to someone in the hospital. The patient can read it when she feels like it, when it's convenient for her. It's visible and tangible.

Others are calling out in distress and despair as they spend long days and endless nights in the nursing home; they want to know their reason for living. "*O God, why am I still here?*" When you drop by and make a visit, you may be God's answer to their prayer. Your visit will remind them that they are not forgotten and that they mean a lot to you.

The possibilities are limitless because all things are possible with God. Isn't it wonderful to know that you might be God's answer to someone's prayer? That someone could be a person you haven't met yet. It could be someone in your own home. Someone is praying, and you might be the answer. You never know when that could happen. You're not sure how. But it happens – for sure.