Question:

Our Lord Jesus promised that if we ask Him for anything in His Name, He will do it (John 14:13-14, NKJV). Elsewhere, Scripture tells us that the prayers of the saints are a fragrant offering to God (Revelation 5:8, NKJV).

Suppose, for example, that a dear friend passes away, and every day we pray to God to remember them in His heavenly kingdom. This feeling is natural for almost every human being: when someone close to us dies, we instinctively wish for their eternal well-being.

So, if we pray for our deceased loved one, asking God to save them in Jesus' Name, is there any harm? Can praying daily for someone who has died, asking God to remember them in His kingdom, be wrong?

Answer:

It is true that God is omnipotent, capable of doing all things. However, one of His attributes is that He does not override human free will. When God created humanity, He did not create us as

robots who cannot act independently. He granted humans freedom of choice, meaning that people can make decisions for themselves without external interference in certain areas of their lives.

This freedom extends to moral choices. For example, if a person chooses to engage in sinful practices or even witchcraft by their own volition, God will not force them to stop. Instead, He will convince, guide, and influence them through His Word and the Holy Spirit, leaving the ultimate choice to the individual (Deuteronomy 30:19, NKJV).

Thus, our prayers cannot override a person’s decisions. Just as God’s power cannot violate human free will, our prayers cannot force someone to repent. What our prayers do is increase the influence of the Holy Spirit in the life of that person. If the individual chooses to respond to that influence, then we may witness their transformation. But if the person persists in rejecting God, prayers alone cannot change their fate.

Regarding the Deceased

Once a person dies, their eternal destiny is fixed. If someone died

in sin, they cannot be prayed out of hell, just as those who died in righteousness cannot fall from heaven. Scripture is clear on this:

> “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” *(Hebrews 9:27, NKJV).*

There is no hope for someone who dies in unrepented sin. Any practice of praying for the dead as a “second chance” is a misconception. Some religious traditions, such as certain Catholic teachings on purgatory, suggest that the souls of the wicked can be purified before entering heaven. However, the Bible does not support this: it is a misleading idea that can give false comfort and encourage sin.

Our prayers for the dead do not change their destiny. They can, however, serve as spiritual discipline for the living, reminding us to intercede for the salvation of those still alive and to live righteously ourselves.

Summary

- Praying for a deceased loved one who died in sin cannot save them; their eternal fate is already determined.
- God respects human free will even while alive, and our prayers can only influence choices, not force them.
- Scripture warns that death is followed by judgment (Hebrews 9:27), leaving no second chance after death.
- Misconceptions like purgatory can be spiritually dangerous if they make people complacent in sin.

> *Blessings to you.*

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