

Did God Really Answer All of Jesus Prayers?
International Bible Lesson
Hebrews 4:14-5:10
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“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission” (Hebrews 5:7).

One of the thoughts that come to mind when Christians study this verse is, “But God did not save Jesus from death! He died for our sins!” We find this verse startling because we remember how Jesus prayed: “Take this cup from me” (Mark 14:36). Let’s look more closely. Did Jesus often pray to His Father and ours? Yes. Did Jesus pray with tears? Yes. He told His disciples, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” (Mark 14:34). Could God save Jesus from death? Yes. Jesus taught, “All things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27). And Jesus prayed on Gethsemane, “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you” (Mark 14:36). Did Jesus pray fervently with reverent submission to God? Yes. Jesus prayed three times on Gethsemane, “Yet not what I will,

but what you will” (Mark 14:36). So, did God answer Jesus’ prayers and petitions and save Him from death when we know Jesus suffered, died on the cross, and was buried in a tomb? Yes. Then how? As Jesus’ body died, God answered Jesus’ prayers when Jesus commended His Spirit to God (see Luke 23:46). When Jesus’ body died, His Spirit departed so He could preach to the disobedient spirits in prison (see 1 Peter 3:17-22). After Jesus rose from the dead in a living, glorified, resurrected human body, He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God as our High Priest where He intercedes for His followers, and our Father always answers His prayers.

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Thinking Further

1. When you think about Jesus, how often do you think about Him as your High Priest? Give a reason for your answer.
2. Why is Jesus an understanding high priest who knows our needs?
3. How do these verses encourage us to pray to Jesus?

4. How does someone rise to the honorable position of a high priest?

5. Why do some people remain spiritual babies?