

us and yet He wants us to pray.

Question: Yes, I think that in any body who finds great difficulty in understanding the simple problems of the sovereignty of God will find just as great difficulty in this matter of prayer. Because there is the same emphasis. There is the two sides to it. On the one side, God's perfect will is done. On the other hand, the Lord says He hears us. (Hard to hear.) We know that God answers prayer. Yet we know that God has ordained from the beginning what He is going to do, and our prayers (hard to hear), and if we do not pray as we should, the thing will not happen. Now you might say God has willed from the very ~~beginning~~ beginning that it is permissible (Hard to hear.) He permits us to fall short, but the (hard to hear) that we fall short. And Baalim prayed God, what shall I do? Shall I go with these men? God, said, No, don't go with them. Baalim said, I can't go with you. And then they came back with bigger gifts. And they said, can you come with us? Baalim said, I told you. The Lord said I mustn't go. There's nothing I can do. But he said, wait, and I'll ask the Lord again. And he already knows the Lord's will but he asks for it. The Lord said, Yes, go with them. Well, you say the Lord changed His mind. But the Lord permitted Baalim to do what he wanted to do. (Hard to hear). Now Baalim did go. And God used Baalim and God accomplished it through Baalim, (Hard to hear). Baalim in the end suffered. And so in this case God says, Yes, go. And God permits Him to go. (Hard to hear). Now God might have said, "I've told you once, you are not to go, and I don't want you to go. Why do you keep on asking me? Why don't you stay." But ~~Baalim~~ God bent to Baalim's asking. Baalim was praying when Baalim should have been obeying instead of praying. But as you said, there is a point in bringing your heart into submission to God's will, and Baalim could have prayed differently, and his prayer would have been a good thing. And the more he prayed the better. He should have prayed God to give him a better understanding - to give him a greater willingness to find out. A greater determination (Hard to hear). And so, my guess is that in the providence, in the inscrutable will of God, it is a more important part of our prayer, what it does to us, and what it does in the universe. (Hard to hear.) But it is true that it does great things in the universe. It's not just (  $8\frac{1}{2}$  . It is real. It does change things. And God gives us answers to our prayers in order to do things. (Hard to hear). And He