**Specific Prayers**

**In our parish my sister, an expectant mother, was encouraging her daughter to pray for a new brother or sister. Each night, the little girl prayed for this intention. Finally, one evening after the new baby had been brought home, the little girl said, “Mommy, I feel sad. I prayed so hard for that baby and now you act as if it is all yours.” *(Mrs. Joseph Felice, in Catholic Digest)***

**Grandma: “You've been washing your face a long time, Nelson.” Nelson: “I'm trying to wash my freckles off. I hate 'em!” Grandma: “You don't want to wash them off! Don't you know that freckles are where the angels kissed you while you were asleep?” Nelson later kneels next to his bed and prays: “ . . . And please tell your angels to knock off the kissing.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Answer my prayer. Hit this car. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Once there was a small boy who wanted a pair of skates. His parents, hoping to teach him the value of money, informed him that he would have to save the required amount from his allowance. His mother overheard him in his room one afternoon shaking his bank and counting his money. Then she heard the bell on the ice cream wagon ringing loudly in the street outside. So the mother waited to see what would happen. The boy wanted the skates, but he also liked ice cream.  There was no sound from the room until the vehicle had gone, and the bell could no longer be heard. Then a childish voice was heard in prayer. “Dear Jesus, please don’t let the ice cream wagon come down my street anymore.” *(Dr. Eugene Brice)***

**In our parish, little Jeff had just returned home from class, rubbing his knees. His mother asked what was wrong. “They’re sore from kneeling so much,” Jeff answered. “But I think it will be all right now. The last time Father asked us to pray, I prayed that he wouldn’t ask us to pray so much.” *(Mrs. Russell Zallar, in Catholic Digest)***

**As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald’s one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, “We should pray.” From the backseat I heard his earnest voice: “Dear God, please don’t let those cars block the entrance to McDonald’s.” *(Sherri Leard, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The child kneels on the floor and looks up and says to God: “Lord, if you are truly a loving God, a compassionate God, a caring God, you’ll let this pack of Pokemon cards contain a holo-foil Carizard card, so I can laugh in Eileen Jacobson’s face.” *(Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)***

 **There’s something good about praying specifically when you focus your attention on God. You’re more likely to get results than if you just prayed in a general manner. The thing to guard against in praying specifically is that you don’t allow your thoughts and attention to dwell upon the need or the problem. Praying specifically is just the starting point. *(Roy E. Fox)***

**Before retiring for the day, Helga kneels by her bed and prays: “. . . And please allow my husband, Hagar, to survive the spears and the arrows, the catapults, boiling oil and attack dogs he will face during his raids on English castles. Also, let him survive the perilous storms, hidden reefs and sea monsters he may encounter on his way home. Amen. And please let him remember to bring back that spool of light blue thread I asked him to get. Amen.” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***

 **I heard a story about a young woman who was single a little longer than she wanted to be, and she decided to pray more specifically. She purchased a pair of men’s trousers, just the right size, and hung them on the bedpost every night. She got on her knees and prayed, “Father in heaven, hear my prayer, and grant it if You can; I’ve hung a pair of trousers here; please fill them with a man.” This woman married at the age of thirty-one and lived to raise twelve children. *(King Duncan and Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 37)***

**The man prays to God: “Please make me a good writer. And please grant Adelle and myself good health. And you know, we could really use a little money. Maybe you should write this down.” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

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