

Prayer and the Double-Slit Experiment

If you have read about quantum physics, you have probably heard of the double-slit experiment whereby light waves (photons) turn into particles when “observed” by a conscious observer. The observations are made by means a device that detects which of the two slits the photons pass through on their way to a detector screen. When the measuring device is turned off, the waves do not turn into particles. When the measuring device is turned on, the waves turn into particles.

Theorists have concluded from experiments like this that our thoughts (ie. observations) actually do influence the physical reality that we observe and experience, at least at the quantum level of very small things. Interestingly, other double-slit experiments have shown that we don’t actually have to physically “observe” the photons of light in order to turn them into particles. It is possible to change them into particles merely by thinking about them, without the use of a measuring device. Dr. Dean Radin, over the past few years, by means of over five thousand individual sessions, has achieved statistically significant results simply by asking a group of people to “imagine” observing which slit the quantum waves go through on their way to the detector. Instead of using an actual measuring device, they would use only their imagination. Asking a group of people to focus their thoughts on the double-slits for just 30 seconds at a time at repeated intervals, Dr. Radin was able to record a statistically significant increase in the number of photons that turned into particles during those 30 second intervals of time. Not all of the photons turned into particles, but a statistically significant number of them actually did, with over a 5 sigma standard deviation. The result was the same, even when thousands of miles separated the double-slit device from the group of people being studied.

So, how does this relate to prayer? The reason prayer works is that our thoughts are far more powerful than we realize. When we focus our thoughts on a desired result we influence, at least to some degree, what happens. The more vividly we observe the desired result, the greater the probability of its actual occurrence. Prayer doesn’t work by changing God’s mind about anything. It works because it changes our mind. God has built into all of us the ability to change our own circumstances. If you repeat the process of imagination enough times, the probabilities gradually increase. Over time, the odds of success can swing dramatically in your favor.

Keep in mind, however, that there is a difference between “hoping” and “expecting.” Unfortunately, for most of us, prayer has the connotation of wishing or asking for God to do something for us. That kind of prayer is not very powerful. According to Hebrews 11:1, faith is not equated with things hoped for. Instead, faith is the “substance” of that hope. It is a realization that takes place in mind before it is manifested externally. When you pray, you need to be visualizing and imagining that what you desire has already happened in your mind, and that it is only a matter of time before it physically manifests in your life.

In the double-slit experiment, imagination does not convert the photons to particles all at once. The same principle holds true for prayer. Over time, as you continue to focus your attention on the desired result, more and more of those photons will coalesce into particles, and the desires of your heart will begin to take shape, first in your mind, and then outwardly in your daily life.