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## NO PRAYER IS EVER WASTED

A Jew who was obviously very ill came to the Steipler Rav, zl, and beseeched him for a blessing. The Steipler listened to the man's pleas, his heartrending cry, his broken-hearted lament, as he related the pain, the trauma - both physical and emotional - which he and his family had endured as they weathered crisis after crisis. Finally, the Steipler spoke. "The heartfelt prayer of a choleh, sick person, is heard by Hashem. This is a verity. It is axiomatic. I suggest that you pray for yourself. Pour out your heart to the Almighty. Entreat Him for mercy. He will certainly listen. He always listens. No prayer returns empty-handed. Every prayer accomplishes something. It might achieve the entire request. At times, it might only negotiate a small percentage of the original request. Even if one does not notice an immediate response of some sort, it means nothing, for it might be a month or two in coming - even a year, five years. Sometimes, it may take up to ten years before one sees Hashem's response," the Steipler concluded his words and bid the man good day.

The sick person began to pray with greater fervor, more intense passion and deeper feeling. Exactly ten years after he had visited the Steipler - yes, it took ten years - the man was completely healed from his illness. The answer came. It just took some time.