

Prayer

COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

WHAT IS PRAYER

Prayer is:

- Talking with God - not to God
- It's a 2 way conversation
- Surrendering to God's will - commonly just thought of as a means for getting our will.
E. Stanley Jones - *"If I throw a hook out of the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God!"*

WHY PRAY

We are commanded to:

Col. 4:2 - And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on **praying** for all the saints.

For others:

1 Tim. 2:1-2 ¹I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Without ceasing:

1 Thes. 5:17 **pray** continually

Rom. 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer**.

Eph. 6:18 And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Modeled in Scripture:

Psalms 5:3 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

The Lord's Prayer:

Matt. 6:9-13 "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Confidence in praying to God:

1 Jn. 3:21-22²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have **confidence** before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

1 Jn. 5:14-15¹⁴This is the **confidence** we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Benefits:

The obvious reason is because the God of the universe is the One who is listening and He is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine! (Eph. 3:20)

Overcoming sin such as:

Anxiety -

Phil. 4:6-7 ⁶Do not be **anxious** about anything, but in everything, by **prayer and petition**, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Quarreling -

James 4:1-6 ¹What causes fights and **quarrels** among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You **quarrel** and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³When you **ask**, you do not receive, because you **ask** with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

