

## But Why?

Part 4: Why should I pray?

April 30, 2023

# WHAT IS PRAYER?

## • Prayer is talking to God.

*When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*  
(Matthew 6:6, New Living Translation)

## FIVE ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT PRAYER:

### 1. Prayer is more about relationship than information.

*When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!*  
(Matthew 6:7-8, NLT)

*Jesus often slipped away to be alone so he could pray.*  
(Luke 5:16, The New Century Version)

### 2. Prayer is about surrendering my will to God, not bending His will to mine.

*Pray like this . . . . May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*  
(Matthew 6:9-10, NLT)

*Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*  
(Luke 22:42, NLT)

*Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

(Philippians 2:9-11, NLT)

### 3. Prayer is about daily communication rather than a last resort.

*Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.*  
(James 5:13 NLT)

### 4. Prayer is about trusting God's timing rather than my timing.

*You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!*  
(John 14:13-14, NLT)

### 5. There are some prayers God will only answer if we keep asking Him.

*Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*  
(Matthew 7:7-8, NLT)

*This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*  
(1 John 4:10, NLT)

*Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you... Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. . . . Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*  
(James 5:14-16, NLT)