

# How Does God Answer My Prayers?

Answers! • May 13, 2015

## The “Why”: Why does God covet our prayers?

- **Draws us closer to God because it \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Our Father who art in Heaven.” (Matthew 6:9)

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13)

- **Deepens our relationship with God by \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.**

“One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in his temple... My heart says of You, ‘Seek His face!’ Your face, Lord, I will seek” (Psalm 27:4, 8).

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” (Psalm 42:1-2).

- **Fulfills His design for us to be His \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.**

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way. (Colossians 1:10)

## The “What”: What are the foundational truths of prayer?

**We have a game-changer: Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_**

You do not have, because you do not ask. (James 4:2)

“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (Luke 11:9–10)

**We have an emissary: Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ by our \_\_\_\_\_,**

\_\_\_\_\_

“There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

“...and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:22)

**We have a prayer partner: The \_\_\_\_\_ our prayer.**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And He who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26, 27)

## The “How”: How can I pray effectively?

**We pray according to \_\_\_\_\_.**

This is the confidence which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him. (1 John 5:14–15)

“Your will be done...” (Matthew 6:10)

**We pray from a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases Him. (Proverbs 15:8)

If our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. (1 John 3:21–22)

**We pray \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**

**Confession To God:** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

**Confession To One Another:** Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16)

**Forgiveness:** Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father also who is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (Mark 11:25)

*Forgive us our sins, in the same manner as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. (Matthew 6:12, Clayton Speed Translation)*

**We pray with \_\_\_\_\_ over a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**

• \_\_\_\_\_

“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.” (2 Cor. 12:8)

• \_\_\_\_\_

“continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2)

• \_\_\_\_\_

“In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard for His godly fear” (Heb. 5:7)

**We pray \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_**

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yea, wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14)

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. (Psalm 130:5-6)

**We pray in \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_**

“Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19-20)

**We pray in \_\_\_\_\_**

When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. (Nehemiah 1:4)

“Yet even now,” says the Lord, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” (Joel 2:12–13a)

- reminds us of our \_\_\_\_\_
- prompts us to \_\_\_\_\_
- brings \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- heightens our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_
- develops a sense of \_\_\_\_\_

**We pray and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_

If the REQUEST is wrong, God says ‘No.’

If YOU are wrong, God says ‘Grow.’

If the TIMING is wrong, God says ‘Slow.’

If you and the request and the timing are RIGHT, God says “Go.”

*Bill Hybels*