

Why should we pray if God knows everything?

Many ask the question: “Why should we pray if God understands and knows everything and He can do whatever He wants to do?”

Prayer is our greatest Christian privilege but — we may as well admit — our greatest Christian failure.

All of us need to NOT ONLY learn to pray more BUT learn to pray in faith. One of the reasons we don't pray effectively in faith as we should is because we have questions about prayer which causes uncertainty or mistrust in God. Then our uncertainty sometimes neutralizes us and we become hesitant about prayer.

The Bible says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, **by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known unto God.” [Philippians 4:6](#)

If we're going to impact our families, our nation, and our world in these critical days, **prayer is where it begins**. This was the first thing the Early Church did after Jesus' ascension. They continued in prayer just as Jesus taught them.

“They returned to Jerusalem...to an upper room” and “continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...” ([Acts 1:12-14](#)).

Even a casual reading of the book of Acts confirms how totally the disciples depended upon prayer — how they dared not make a move without committing to prayer, seeking God for His guidance and deliverance through prayer. There are so many prayers Scripture references in the Bible regarding prayer.

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” ([Acts 2:42](#)).

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer...” ([Acts 3:1](#)).

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer...” ([Acts 6:4](#)). “...Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God...” ([Acts 12:5](#)).

If those who walked alongside our Lord for three years were dependent upon prayer, how much more so are we? What a grave mistake we make if we are casual about our prayer life.

One of the questions most often asked about prayer is:

Why should we pray when God already knows our needs? Why tell God what He already knows or ask Him to do what He already wants to do?

Thank God we don't have to understand prayer in order to pray. Yet, there are some consistent valid questions people have concerning prayer, but these must not hinder us from relying upon it.

Wrong Reasons To Pray:

- **We don't pray to impress God.** We're not heard for our "much-speaking." You don't have to use poetic language or be an amateur Shakespeare. If an earthly child can speak to an earthly father, you can speak to your Heavenly Father. We're told to cry out to Him as our "Abba" Father — literally translated, "Daddy." ([Romans 8:15](#), [Galatians 4:6](#)). We're not praying to impress Him.
- **We don't pray to inform God.** You can't tell God anything He doesn't know. So if we don't pray to *impress* or *inform* God, why then do we pray?

Right Reasons To Pray

1. **We Pray to tell God that we need him.** It's very important to understand this: we are inviting God into our lives when we pray.
2. **Fellowship.** We become "**workers together** with Him" ([2 Corinthians 6:1](#)). When we pray, God gives us the joy and privilege of administrating His kingdom, His affairs — working together with Him. He could do it without us. We could not do it without Him. But what a glory that God allows us the privilege of doing it *with* Him!
3. **Development.** When we pray, **God is growing us.** Have you ever prayed and didn't receive immediately what you asked for? What did you do? You kept on praying, but you also began to search your heart and life to see if something was hindering God's answer. Many times there is. God uses prayer to grow us.
4. **Dependency. God never wants us to live lives independent of Him.** If God just did everything for us and we never had to pray, soon we would begin to take things for granted. We would cease to depend upon God.
5. **Prayer Binds Us to God**
That's why we tell God what He already knows. He knows what we have need of before we ask, but we're definitely, specifically, unqualifiedly told to pray and to ask — not to impress or inform God, but to invite God, so that we might have that fellowship with Him, so that we might grow, and we would learn to depend upon Him.