

"TALKING TO GOD"

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1. WHAT IS PRAYER?

a. Talking to God.

Romans 8:26 *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.* (NLT)

b. Communicating with God.

c. John Piper's definition: "Prayer is intentionally conveying a message to God."

2. WHY DO WE PRAY?

a. We obey God's command.

James 5:16 *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.* (NLT)

Thessalonians 5:17 *Never stop praying.* (NLT)

Luke 22:40 *There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation."* (NLT)

Luke 18:1 *One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.* (NLT)

Luke 6:28 *"Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you."* (NLT)

b. We are in need.

Mark 11:24 *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have that you have received it and it will be yours."* (NIV)

c. We care for others in need.

1 Timothy 2:1 *I urge you first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.* (NLT)

d. We want to be with God, our friend.

John 15:15 *"I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."* (NLT)

3. IS PRAYER EFFECTIVE?

Exodus 32:14 *So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.* (NASB)

Genesis 18:32 *Finally, Abraham said, "Lord, please don't get angry with if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?" And the Lord replied, "Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten."* (NLT)

4. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PRAY?

a. The Holy Spirit helps us to know what and how to pray.

Romans 8:26-27 *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit*

pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. (NLT)

b. Our prayer is always answered.

Philippians 4:19 *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.* (NLT)

Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.* (NLT)

5. DOES GOD ALWAYS ANSWER "YES" TO OUR PRAYERS?

a. God may answer a "NO" because your request is not in line with His will.

Matthew 26:39 *He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."* (NLT)

b. God may answer a "WAIT" because your timing is different from His schedule.

John 11:5-6 *So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days.* (NLT)

c. God may answer "GROW" because your spiritual condition is wrong.

James 4:2-3 *You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it, because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.* (NLT)

d. God may answer "YES" because your request, timing, spiritual condition are OK.

Acts 12:5, 16-17 *But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him . . . Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. He mentioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to another place.* (NLT)

6. HOW DOES A SINNER APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER?

a. Ask for God's mercy.

b. Admit that you are a sinner.

Luke 18:13-14 *"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am sinner.' not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* (NLT)

7. HOW DID JESUS TEACH HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY?

Matthew 6:9-15 *"Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."* (NASB)