

March 8, 2020

CONFUSED 6 : WHY PRAY?

Yes, God is all-knowing.

But we also know these things about God:

God is All-Powerful

"I will break the strength of the wicked, but I will increase the power of the godly." Psalms 75:10

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING HE CANNOT DO – EXCEPT SOMETHING THAT WOULD INFRINGE ON HIS OWN POWER/DECISION

God is Everywhere at one time

"God is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3

HE CAN HEAR US ALL AT ONE TIME – AND IS INVESTED IN EACH ONE OF US PERSONALLY

God is Unchangeable

"God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?" Numbers 23:19

"So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us." Hebrews 6:18

God Loves us!

"We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people." 1 Thessalonians 1:4

SO, here are some things to remember about why we pray:

- **We don't pray to impress God.**

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.**

When praying, believers never tell God something he doesn't already know. But God has chosen to use prayer as a means by which God's people express their dependence upon their Father who knows all things and can actually do something about the most puzzling problems of life.
(John Calvin)

- God knows what you'll pray before you start...so prayer isn't giving God new information.
- God can do what needs to be done without our input...so prayer isn't helping God make difficult decisions.

- **We don't pray to convince God or change his mind**

God can, and sometimes *does* say "no" to whatever you pray...
So He's immutable - UNCHANGING

- **We Pray to Invite God**

It's very important to understand this: **we are inviting God into our lives** when we pray.

Jesus put it this way:

"Pray like this: **1** Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. **2** May your Kingdom come soon. **3** May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. **4** Give us today the food we need, and **5** forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And **6** don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."
(Matthew 6:9-13 NLT)

We invite God into our lives for several benefits:

- **Development.** When we pray, **God is growing us.**

When you pray and don't see an answer,

- You kept on praying, (Ask, Seek, Knock. Luke 11:10)
- You also began to search your heart and life

Consider all the prayers the people of God lifted during times of slavery, desolation, and exile; God's timing is perfect!

- **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.

- The disciples dared not make a move without committing to prayer, seeking God for His guidance and deliverance through prayer.

The Early Church's response after Jesus' ascension?

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

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

- **Fellowship.**

We are in PARTNERSHIP with God (2 Corinthians 6:1)

When we pray, God gives us the joy and privilege of administering His kingdom, His affairs — working together with Him.

He could do it without us. We could not do it without Him.

- **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, unequivocally told to pray and to ask
- not to impress or inform God,
- but to invite God into our lives
 - so that we might have that fellowship with Him,
 - so that we might grow,
 - and we would learn to depend upon Him.

Know this:

1. God wants us to ask for help.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. – James 1:5

2. God wants us to pray for others.

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. – Matthew 5:44

3. God will provide in His time and in His way

Israelites were in slavery for over 400 years before the great Exodus!

When Israel was starving at the hands of the marauders of their enemies, the Israelites "cried out" to the Lord.

Help came in the form of weakness and obedience from the least likely tribe.

4. We don't have to know everything about prayer.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. – Romans 8:26

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

Notes:

<https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/love-worth-finding/read/articles/since-god-knows-everything-why-should-we-pray-9549.html>

<https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/why-pray-if-god-knows-everything-two-reasons.html>

<https://godwords.org/if-god-knows-everything-why-pray/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/theologically-driven/if-god-knows-everything-why-should-we-pray.html>