



Why do We Pray?

1 Thessalonians 5:17: (NKJV) "pray without ceasing"



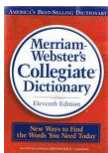
Prayer. It is a central activity of most any religion. For people who are very religious, prayer is one of the very basics of their lives. For many who are not normally religious, prayer comes into play when tragedy enters their life and they are suddenly faced with the mortality of themselves or their loved ones. Often, it seems as though the subject of our prayers is, well, ourselves. It seems that we pray when we need something or when we want something, for ourselves or our loved ones. So, is this the purpose for prayer - for our own desires to be noticed, or is there more to it than that? Stay with us as we look into the purpose, passion and power of prayer!

Questions for consideration:

1. What is prayer?
2. Who should pray?
3. What should we pray about?

1. What is prayer?

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary:



Prayer: *noun*

- 1a: an address (as a petition) to God or a god in word or thought; a set order of words used in praying; 1b: an earnest request or wish
- 2: the act or practice of praying to God or a god <kneeling in *prayer*>
- 3: a religious service consisting chiefly of prayers – often used in plural
- 4: something prayed for
- 5: a slight chance <haven't got a *prayer*>

Prayer in the Old Testament:



Strong's #7881 siychah (see-khaw'); reflection; be extension, devotion:

Strong's #7879 siyach (see'-akh); a contemplation; by implication, an utterance:

Strong's #1156 be` a' (Aramaic) (beh-aw'); or be` ah (Aramaic) (beh-aw'); to seek or ask:

Strong's #6419 palal (paw-lal'); to judge (officially or mentally); to intercede, pray:

Strong's #8605 tephillah (tef-il-law'); intercession, supplication; by implication, a hymn:

(Supplication in the Old Testament: Essentially describing a manner in which we are to pray.)

Strong's #8467 techinnah (tekh-in-naw'); graciousness; causatively, entreaty:

Strong's #2603 chanan (khaw-nan'); properly, to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; causatively to implore (i.e. move to favor by petition):

Prayer in the New Testament:

Strong's #4335 proseuche (pros-yoo-khay'); prayer (worship); by implication, an oratory (chapel):

Strong's #1189 deomai (deh'-om-ahee); to beg (as binding oneself), i.e. petition:

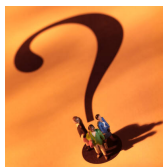
Strong's #1162 deesis (deh'-ay-sis); a petition:

Summation of Prayer, based upon Biblical words:

- ⌘ Reflection
- ⌘ Devotion
- ⌘ A contemplation; by implication, an utterance
- ⌘ To intercede
- ⌘ To seek or ask
- ⌘ By implication, a hymn
- ⌘ Entreaty
- ⌘ To bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior
- ⌘ An oratory
- ⌘ Petition

We can say that prayer is method of communion and communication on the part of human beings directed towards a higher power - a god or goddess, an entity or a being, generally considered to be in the spirit realm. For many, their prayers are directed towards what they believe to be the mighty and all powerful Ruler of the Universe, while for others their prayers are directed towards one of many mighty ones. Again, names and interpretations will vary, but the basic concept remains the same. For the purposes of our discussion here, we will focus on the Almighty God of the Bible, as He is the Divine Being to which we direct our prayers.

2. Who should pray?



Thought Question: Is prayer an entitlement or a privilege?

There are many religious and cultural implements (tools) of prayer - we will list a few:

Prayer Shawl: a shawl with fringed corners worn over the head or shoulders by Jewish men especially during morning prayers

Prayer Wheel: a cylinder of wood or metal that revolves on an axis and contains written prayers and that is used in praying by Tibetan Buddhists

Prayer Rug: a small Oriental rug used by Muslims to kneel on when praying

Prayer Book: a book containing prayers and often other forms and directions for worship

Prayer Beads: a string of beads by which prayers are counted; rosary



What does this tell us? It tells us that we, as frail human beings, do many things to try and focus our minds on spiritual things.

This next text is a good example of another tool of prayer:

Acts 16:13-14: (KJV) *"¹³And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. ¹⁴And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."*

What was this river side? ("Wont" means habitual or conducive to the act of praying.) Christianity originally used synagogues as places of worship. Not having the facilities of a synagogue they probably did not have Scripture parchments, and hence no reading of the Law, but merely prayer and worship.



Thought Question: Is prayer an entitlement or a privilege?

If prayer were an entitlement, then everyone would have an equal opportunity and privilege to pray; however, the Bible seems to tell us otherwise.

**The correct perspective of approaching prayer, God, and ourselves:
(He is big, we are little)**

Isaiah 57:15: (NRSV) *"For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

**Building upon our perspective, we need to be living in a manner
(seeking after righteousness) that would be pleasing to God:**

Proverbs 15:6-9: (NRSV) *"⁶In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked. ⁷The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the minds of fools. ⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight. ⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves the one who pursues righteousness."*

**Living in such a way does not exempt us from mistakes and bad judgments,
but it does enable us to properly deal with them:**

Psalms 32:1-8: (NRSV) *"¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah ⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."*

Having opened the door of blessing from above, we now need to keep it opened:

James 4:7-10: (NRSV) *"⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep. Let*



your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

We have to live in a way that is worthy of communication with God.

Does all of this mean that everyone who prays is NOT on equal footing before God?

Proverbs 15:28-29: (NRSV) *"²⁸The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil. ²⁹The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous."*

Why is the Lord "far from the wicked?" Because they are far from Him! We want to understand just how to position ourselves so that we can pray effectively. There is a placement of where you are with respects God and prayer. The good news is, you can change your placement any time you want to by the way that you live.

Constant interaction with God is good. We can learn to have gratitude even when things don't go our way - gratitude is always appropriate.

Psalms 102:1-8: (NRSV) *"¹Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you. ²Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call. ³For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace. ⁴My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread. ⁵Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my skin. ⁶I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places. ⁷I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop. ⁸All day long my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse."*

This is a prayer of heartfelt grief and anguish. God wants us to be genuine with Him and not hold things back. If we are seeking God, He should be the centerpiece of our lives. A caller reminded us that it is essential we don't barge into God's throne in a casual, irreverent manner, forgetting that "Hallowed by Thy Name." However, sometimes in the difficulties of our lives, formality won't be the first thing on our minds.

Prayer acknowledges our need and that there is a greater Being who is our Creator. This runs contradictory to the theory of evolution of man.

The texts to follow certainly show that there is no authority on the part of those praying - rather there is a humble petitioning:

Psalms 86:1-6: (NRSV) *"¹Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. ²Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; ³be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long. ⁴Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ⁵For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. ⁶Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication."*

Daniel 9:17-19: (NRSV) *"¹⁷Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary. ¹⁸Incline your ear, O my God, and hear. Open your eyes and look at our desolation and the city that bears your name. We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. ¹⁹O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name!"*

Nehemiah 1:4-7: (NRSV) *"⁴When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the*



great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. ⁷We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses."

There is a placement of where you are with respects God and prayer. The good news is, you can change your placement anytime you want to by the way that you live.

So are we saying that the Bible is excluding anyone who does NOT have God's favor? Where do those prayers go?

James 4:8: NKJV) "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*

We have to move towards Godliness and righteousness, drawing near to God.

Acts 10:1-6: (NKJV) "*¹There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ²a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, Lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. ⁶He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."*

Cornelius was a prayerful man, but he was out of favor. It had not yet been time for Gentiles to gain favor with God. But yet his prayers and alms reached God. This speaks volumes to what happens if we are on the wrong side of God's favor - the prayers didn't just disappear. God recognized them and "held" them until the appropriate time when He could directly provide an answer.

Cornelius is shown as having a wonderful character and a man of integrity, and God blessed him. If our hearts are seeking Godliness, those prayers have the same ability to come before God.

King David committed egregious sins and was personally out of favor with God. Upon being told of his condition, this Psalm reflects his finding his way back to God:

Psalms 51:14-17: (NKJV) "*¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. ¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise."*

David sums up what God is looking for. Can we do these wonderful sacrifices to God to show how worthy and spiritual we are? God instead looks for a contrite heart, an attitude of prayer.



Observations: What do we know about prayer so far?

- Perspective is the first order of business regarding prayer - God is lofty and we are little;
- Live in a manner that is worthy of this perspective;



- Bad judgments and mistakes do not of themselves remove us from prayer;
- We must continually work to keep this door of prayer to God opened;
- All do not have the door of prayer opened, although all CAN should they desire it.



3. What should we pray about?

Let's begin discussing this question with a look at a remarkable Old Testament prayer:

This is the account where King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and wants his wise men to not only interpret it for him, he wants them to tell him what the dream was! He is so angry that no one can accomplish this task that he orders all of the wise men to be executed. Daniel and his three companions, although not present at the King's command, are wise men and subject to execution.

Daniel 2:16-23: (NKJV) ¹⁶"So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. ¹⁷Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,

for wisdom and might are His. ²¹And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. ²²He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. ²³"I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king's demand."

Observations: What can we learn about prayer from this account?



- In a matter of immediate life or death, prayer is first on Daniel's mind;
- Daniel not only prays, he immediately seeks the prayers of his closest companions (this indicates his own humility);
- "Prayer fellowship" in trouble is a most powerful tool;
- Daniel "answers" God's answer (vs. 20) in prayer, with the right attitude;
- He begins with perspective - God is lofty and we are little (vs. 20);
- He acknowledges God's providence over the world of mankind (vs. 21);
- He acknowledges God's providence over the details of mankind (vs. 22);
- He acknowledges God's providence over Daniel's own needs (vs. 23).

No wonder Daniel was so beloved of God!



Daniel 9:23: (NKJV) *"At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:"*

Daniel 10:11: (NKJV) *"And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling."*

Daniel 10:19: (NKJV) *"And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.""*



Here is perhaps the best known prayer amongst Christians. It is a prayer given as a model of how to pray. It is simple, focused and eloquent. Here we learn how to pray:

Matthew 6:9-13: (NRSV) *"⁹Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."*

Matthew 6:9: (NRSV) *"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."*

- **First order of business - Glorify God our father:**

(Notice Jesus didn't say: "Pray using these words." Instead, he told us to "pray in this way." He showed us what makes a prayer and wants us to speak from our own hearts.)

Romans 8:15: (NRSV) *"For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Isaiah 64:8: (ASV) *"But now, O Jehovah, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."*

Matthew 6:10: (NRSV) *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

- **Second order of business - Pray for the plan of God to unfold:**

God has a plan and it is in process. We have the opportunity to see it and ought to acknowledge that opportunity by praying for his Kingdom to come on earth.

Daniel 2:44: *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."*

Hebrews 4:16:
"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."



Matthew 6:11: (NIV) *"Give us today our daily bread."*

- **Third order of business - Petitioning for basic needs:**

1 Timothy 6:8: *"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

Matthew 6:12: (NRSV) *"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

- **Fourth order of business - Being forgiven and forgiving:**

If we are not forgiving to another, should we be expecting to be forgiven?

Isaiah 1:18: *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*

Ephesians 1:7: *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"*

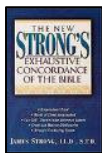
Matthew 6:13: (NRSV) *"And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."*

- **Fifth order of business - Seeking God's overruling and protection:**

2 Peter 2:9: *"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"*

Now, having perspective and a template how should we pray? With GREAT ENERGY!!

James 5:16: (KJV) *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent** prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*



Effectual Fervent - Strong's #1754 *energeo* (en-erg-eh'-o) to be active, efficient, to be operative, be at work, put forth power

The implication is to pray with the passion that is within you! It is seeking God's hand in your life and His overruling. It's praising Him and thanking Him - not just repeating a bunch of words. It wasn't meant to be repetitious but instead to come from your heart.

The James 5:16 scripture reminds us that we need to share our experiences with others so that we can pray for each other.

Prayer may not change the outward circumstances you are dealing with, but it changes your ability to cope with, to deal with, to overcome the outward circumstances. Prayer changes things.

Here is the context of our theme text, the context in which prayer must live:

1 Thessalonians 5:14-25: (NKJV) *"¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."*



¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. ²⁵Brethren, pray for us."

There is an energy required to not only live a life of Godliness, but to prayer while we live in that life of Godliness. And remember, "In everything give thanks." We acknowledge the fact that God knows the beginning from the end. We only know our "now," this tiny little point in time. Therefore, thanksgiving is always appropriate. That is a perspective from which prayer can grow.

Prayer - Affords us the opportunity to give praise:

Daniel 4:34: (NRSV) "When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me. I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored the one who lives forever. For his sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation."

Psalms 105:1-5: (KJV) ¹"O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. ²Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. ³Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. ⁴Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. ⁵Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"

Prayer - Brings us encouragement and strength:

Psalms 34:17-19: (NRSV) ¹⁷"When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all."

Hebrews 5:5-9: (NRSV) ⁵"So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,"

Prayer - Brings us guidance:

Luke 6:12-13: (NRSV) ¹²"Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles:"

Matthew 7:7-11: (NRSV) ⁷"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Prayer gives us guidance when we don't know what is in the future. We can walk confidently knowing God's will is being done.



Prayer: The ultimate GPS!



Prayer...

Affords opportunity to give praise: Daniel 4:34, Psalms 105:1-5

Brings encouragement and strength: Psalms 34:17-19, Hebrews 5:5-9

Brings guidance: Luke 6:12-13, Matthew 7:7-11

Brings forgiveness: Psalms 32:1-8

Brings deliverance: Psalms 91:1-7, Hebrews 4:14-16

Gives the ability to participate in the lives of others: John 17:4-9, Luke 6:28

Prayer - Brings us forgiveness:

Psalms 32:1-8: (NRSV) ¹"Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah ⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

Prayer - Brings us deliverance:

Psalms 91:1-7: (KJV) ¹"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. ⁴He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. ⁵Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; ⁶Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. ⁷A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee."



Hebrews 4:14-16: (KJV) *"¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Prayer - Gives us the ability to participate in the lives of others:

John 17:4-9: (NRSV) *"⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours."*

Colossians 1:9-12: (NRSV) *"⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light."*

Luke 6:28: (NRSV) *"bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."*

Hebrews 13:18: (NRSV) *"Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things."*

Philippians 1:2-6: (NRSV) *"²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."*

Prayer will change things in your life if approached with reverence.

**So why do we pray?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**