

What's the point?

Dependence on God

Why do we pray anyway? Does God not already know what we need?

Dependence on God

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on God, that we can't live without him. God wants us to bring him our lives, submitted to his authority. He wants us to make him Lord. He wants to hear us say we love him, that we want to follow him and obey him.

Desire God above all else

God wants us to bring him our worship. We shouldn't just talk to God to ask him for 'stuff'. Spend time praising him for who he is and what he has done.

So let us be thankful, because we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. We should worship God in a way that pleases him with respect and fear.
Hebrews 12:28

TO DO: Make a list of words that describe God. Try making a 'Wordle' out of them. Use them to praise God and tell him how great he is.

Make a list of as many things you can think of that you can thank God for. Listen to worship music. Use the Bible to fuel your prayers. If you don't go to church, make a point of joining others to worship!



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Prayer Questions...



... an A-B-C-, and D!

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What is prayer?

Anywhere, Anything, Any time

Prayer is a **conversation with God**.

- You can talk to him **Anywhere**
- You can tell him **Anything**
- He is listening **All the time**.
- He wants to **Answer!**



Call to me and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful things that you know nothing about. **Jeremiah 33:3**

God isn't a far away, distant God. Remember Jesus as you pray: his love for you, his sacrificial death on the cross to save you, his resurrection power.

TO DO: Take a health check. How often do you pray? Do you pray out of a sense of crisis/habit/duty/need/thankfulness?

Tell God how you feel about prayer. Ask for help.

Need to talk? Don't text, call or Facebook friends—talk to God instead. Talk to God in your head as you walk, run, do your work... you get the idea!

What do I say?

Be yourself!

Be natural

What is your experience of prayer? Is it big words, said in a funny voice?

God wants to hear you the way you speak.

Be honest

Some people think they need to get themselves sorted out before they can talk to God. This isn't the case, for God know what we are like anyway. He wants us to be honest with him.

The psalms are full of anger, pain, frustration. Come to God as you are. Shout, scream, cry—but don't forget to thank him when you are happy too!

Be specific

Don't pray vague, general prayers you can't see God answer. Tell him what you need. Learn to depend on him to provide for you. Don't just pray once. Keep on asking and trusting.

TO DO: Write down what you pray for. Note the answers. Praise God—and share with others!

If you find it hard to pray in your head, speak out loud. Or write down your prayers.

Do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **Matthew 6:7**

Why does God not seem to answer?

Check your heart

God always answers—but sometimes the answer is 'No'. At other times it might be 'Wait'.

Confess your sin

We need to get our hearts right before we pray. We fall short of God's standard. If we think we have nothing to say sorry for, then that is pride!

But the trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God. Because of sin he has turned his face away from you and will not listen anymore. **Isaiah 59:2**

TO DO: Get into the habit of saying 'Sorry' to God, even during the day as things happen you know won't please him. Ask God to forgive you—and for help to make good choices, not bad.

Check your motives

When you ask God for something, check if it is something that is 'in accordance with his will'. After all, God won't answer if what you are asking for is selfish, or something he says is plain wrong!

TO DO: The way you know what God wants is to get to know him through the Bible, and let it speak to you. Allow God to put his finger on things that you need to change. Write them down, confess them, ask for forgiveness. Now shred them—they are gone!