

THE PURPOSES OF PRAYER

ENGAGE: Part One

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“Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”” (Luke 11:1, NLT)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9–13, KJV 1900)

THE FOUR PURPOSES OF PRAYER

1. PRAYER IS AN ACT OF DEDICATION.

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”” (John 15:1–5, NLT)

2. PRAYER IS AN ACT OF COMMUNICATION.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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.” (John 15:13–15, NLT)

3. PRAYER IS AN ACT OF SUPPLICATION.

“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” (John 15:7–8, NLT)

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” (John 16:24, NIV)

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” (Philippians 4:6, NLT)

“You want what you don’t have... 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.” (James 4:2–3, NLT)

“Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires.” (Psalm 37:4, NLT)

“For the LORD God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.” (Psalm 84:11, NLT)

4. PRAYER IS AN ACT OF COOPERATION.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.” (John 14:12–13, NLT)

“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.” (1 John 5:14–15, NLT)

“You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.” (Matthew 21:22, NLT)

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” (Ephesians 3:20, NLT)

“I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.” (Psalm 57:2, NLT)

“The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.” (Proverbs 21:1, NLT)

LAST THOUGHT

**THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF UNANSWERED PRAYER IS:
UNPRAYED PRAYERS**