

I Don't Know What I Believe  
About Prayer

August 6, 2017

**Why Do We Pray?**

- ✓ To acknowledge God and allow Him in our lives.

**Revelation 3:20** Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

- ✓ To build a personal relationship with God.

**Hebrews 4:16** So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- ✓ To exercise our Spiritual Authority.

**Luke 10:19** I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

**Matthew 18:18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

**Why do some prayers go unanswered?**

1. Relationships are important.

**Mark 11:24-25** I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

**1 Peter 3:7** In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

2. Motives are important.

**James 4:3** And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

**Proverbs 16:2** People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.

3. Faith is important.

**James 1:6-7** But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

**Matthew 9:29-30** Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” Then their eyes were opened, and they could see!

4. God’s Will is important.

**1 John 5:14-15** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

**Isaiah 55:9** As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### **Power of Prayer**

**2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**Acts 12:5** So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

**Acts 12:7;12** Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists...he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

**Walk Away:** When we pray according to His word, we can have confidence God hears us.