

Content of Prayer

December 31, 2025

IF YOU KNEW, YOU WOULD ASK

Craig Smith • January 4, 2026 • Content of Prayer

If you don't know Him well, you don't ask Him much...

"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.'" (John 4:10)

• There's no benefit in praying for show or praying forever -
"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full...And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matt. 6:5-8)

This, then, is how you should pray... (Matt. 6:9a)

The first three petitions orient us toward God's glory...

- Reverence and worship - *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” (Matt. 6:9b)**
- Rule and reign - “...your kingdom come...” (Matt. 6:10a)**

- **Surrender and submission** - "...your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (***Matt. 6:10b***)

The second three petitions orient us toward our needs...

- **Physical needs** - "Give us today our daily bread." (***Matt. 6:11***)
- **Relational needs** - "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (***Matt. 6:12***)
- **Spiritual needs** - "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (***Matt. 6:13***)

*Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. (**1 Chron. 29:10b-13**)*

*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (**James 5:16b**)*