

# My Prayer

## Introduction

Craig Smith • October 15, 2017

If we don't know Him well, we 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)*

Prayer brings...

- **Glory to God** – "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14)
- **Joy to my life** – "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)

☛ **Common prayer-toxins...**

- **Too much self-dependence** – "You do not have, because you do not ask God." (James 4:2)
- **Too much self-indulgence** – "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (James 4:3)
- **Too little self-discipline** – "'Simon,' He said to Peter, 'are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.'" (Mark 14:37a-38b)

Prayer requires...

- **Confidence** – "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." (1 John 5:14-15)
- **Frequency** – "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." (Eph. 6:18)
- **Tenacity** – "I appeal to you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf..." (Rom. 15:30 RSV)
- **Patience** – "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Rom. 12:12)

*"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" (Matt. 7:9-11)*

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