

PRAYER: EARTH TO HEAVEN TO EARTH

❖ How does prayer work?

- Prayer is UNEXPLAINABLE.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

- It's not WISH fulfillment.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. "

John 15:7 (NIV)

- It's not a FORMULA.

This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

❖ So, what does prayer do?

- Prayer ALIGNS me with the will of God.

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

John 16:23 (NIV)

- Prayer REVEALS my dependence on God.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

- Prayer STRENGTHENS my connection with God.

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

❖ How should we pray?

- There are as many WAYS to PRAY as there are PEOPLE who prayed.
- Prayer is a PERSONAL activity.

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

- Prayer is a GROUP activity.

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:13-16 (NIV)