

Take Away – Connection: If God knows everything, why do we pray?

Text: Colossians 1:9-14

Date: 5-8-22



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. God has promised us many places in Scripture that prayer is effective and that He will hear us. Read Matthew 7:7, Matthew 21:22, Mark 9:29, Mark 11:24, John 14: 13-14, and Ephesians 6:18. Share examples of when you were blessed in your life to see the outcome of prayer.
2. How do you answer the sermon question: "If God knows everything, why do we pray?"
3. Read 1 John 5: 14 – 15. What does it mean to ask according to God's will?
4. How has God shown you that He is listening to your prayers and that prayer does work?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18. What does it mean to "pray without ceasing" and now is that even possible?
6. How might your prayers change, knowing that God is listening and that He will answer?
7. If we can pray and ask God to change things, and if God is really in control of everything, why don't we get everything I pray for?"
8. As a small group, using the acronym A.C.T.S list at least 2 prayer requests in each area that your group has at this time. Then take turns having individuals pray for each item.

Adoration:

Confession:

Thanksgiving:

Supplication:

9. Keeping the sermon question [“If God knows everything, then why do we pray?”] in mind, read and react to the following quote by C.S. Lewis from *Mere Christianity* describing what happens when a Christian prays: “An ordinary simple Christian kneels down to say his prayers. He is trying to get into touch with God. But if he is a Christian, he knows that what is prompting him to pray is also God: God, so to speak, inside him. But he also knows that all his real knowledge of God comes through Christ, the Man who was God—that Christ is standing beside him, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the thing to which he is praying—the goal he is trying to reach. God is also the thing inside him which is pushing him on—the motive power. God is also the road or bridge along which he is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole threefold life of the three-personal Being is actually going on in that ordinary little bedroom where an ordinary man is saying his prayers.”

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Small Group Bonus Material – How Should I Pray? Use Your Hands! (adapted from material provided by Pastor Rick Warren)

There’s a simple way to remember how to pray using your hands. Psalm 88:9 says, “*LORD, every day I call to you and lift my hands to you in prayer*” (GNT).

The fingers on your left hand represent **who** to pray for, and the fingers on your right hand represent **what** to pray for. If you remember these steps, you can easily make a habit of praying throughout your day. Have you ever thought, “I can’t pray for five minutes straight”? Just use your hands! By the time you go through each of these steps, you easily will have spent five minutes talking with God.

Left Hand – Who to Pray for:

1. Your thumb. The people closest to your heart are your family and friends. Your thumb reminds you to pray for them first.
2. The index finger is the one that points the way. It represents teachers and leaders in your life who point you toward Jesus and God’s will. Pray that they will help you and others make wise decisions and that they will be wise in their own lives as well.
3. Your tallest finger is the middle finger. Let it remind you to pray for people in authority and people who influence society. Pray for them to lead with integrity and influence others for good, not bad.

4. Your ring finger is pretty weak. It can help you remember to pray for people who tend to be more vulnerable, including the elderly, those suffering from illness, and people who do not have enough to eat. Pray for God to meet their needs and draw them closer to him.
5. The last finger, your pinky, represents you. It's okay to pray for yourself! But don't start there. Pray for yourself last, after you pray for everybody else.

Right Hand – What to Pray for:

1. Your thumb is closest to your heart when you hold up your right hand. So the first thing you pray for is—that's right—your heart. The Bible says to guard your heart, because it controls your life. Everything flows from the heart! Ask God to reveal any sin you need to confess so you can get your heart right with him.
2. We usually use our index finger to signal the number one. Use that finger to remind you to pray for your priorities and schedule. Ask God to show you what's most important so that you can make it a priority in your life. If you're not praying about your schedule, God isn't blessing your schedule.
3. Your tallest finger, the middle finger, is the one that stands out. It reminds you to pray for your influence. Pray that when people see you, they will see how God has worked in your life. Ask God to make you an example of his love. Ask him to give you greater influence so you can use it for good.
4. The ring finger reminds you to pray for your relationships. Be specific as you talk to God about your spouse, children, extended family, friends, colleagues, supervisors, ministry partners, and neighbors. Tell him how you want to see those relationships grow and heal and bring him glory.
5. Finally, your little finger is a reminder to pray for material blessings. There's nothing wrong with asking God to bless your life materially—it's just not the most important thing, so it's the last thing you pray for. Remember, God says you have not because you ask not.

“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).