

A person is kneeling on a sandy beach, their hands clasped in prayer over an open Bible. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

PRAYER MATTERS:
Why Pray? How to Pray?

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

1. To express our trust and dependence on Him.

“Our Father, who art in heaven...” (Matt. 6:9)

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

2. To love Him and grow in our relationship with Him.

“and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 6:19)

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

3. To know and to implement His will in the world.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)

THE POWER OF PRAYER

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,” (Eph. 3:20)

THE POWER OF PRAYER

1. We have a Mediator.

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,” (1 Tim 2:5)

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16)

THE POWER OF PRAYER

2. We have a name above every other name.

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)

THE POWER OF PRAYER

3. We have an eternal Helper.

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Rom 8:26-27)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

1. Praying according to God's will.

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

2. Praying with faith.

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24)

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

3. The importance of obedience.

“If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” (Psalm 66:18)

“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honour to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Pet 3:7)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

4. The importance of humility.

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:6-7)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

5. The importance of praying earnestly.

“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.” (Heb 5:7)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

6. The importance of persistence.

“In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.” (Luke 6:12)

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (Matt 6:7)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

7. The importance of waiting.

“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Is 40:31)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

8. The importance of forgiveness.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

“and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matt 6:12)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

9. The importance of fasting.

“As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.” (Neh 1:4)

“The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.” (Mark 2:20)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

9. The importance of fasting

- Humility and dependence;
- More attention to prayer;
- Reminder of self-sacrifice;
- Self discipline in sanctification;
- Spirit rules over flesh;
- Expresses urgency in prayer.

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

10. The importance of praying in private.

“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matt 6:6)

HOW CAN WE PRAY MORE EFFECTIVELY?

11. The importance of praying with others.

“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

(Matt 18:19-20)

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

Why Pray?

- We express our trust and dependence on God;
- We grow in our relationship with Him;
- We get to know and implement His will in the world:

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

The Power of Prayer:

- We have a Mediator and Great High Priest;
- We have a Name above all names;
- We have an eternal Helper.

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

The How of Prayer:

- Praying the will of God;
- The importance of faith;
- The importance of obedience;
- The importance of humility;
- The importance of earnest prayer;

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

The How of Prayer:

- The importance of persistence;
- The importance of waiting on the Lord;
- The importance of forgiveness;
- The importance of fasting;
- The importance of praying alone and together.

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,”

(Eph 3:20)

THE MYSTERY OF PRAYER

- God is the potter, we are the clay;
- God's timing is not our timing;
- Disobedience, lack of faith, unforgiveness?
- The true meaning of faith

A TEMPLATE FOR PRAYER

Pray then like this:

- “Our Father in heaven,
- Hallowed be Your name.
- Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Give us this day our daily bread,
- And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

(Matt 6:9-13)

