

PRAYER *Talking with GOD*

The what and why of prayer

What is true prayer? "A humble request addressed to GOD or a god..." Dictionary

Is *all* prayer even directed toward our GOD? IKings 18:25-39, 26-28

No. Much prayer is directed to demons/stones (images), and often ancestors.

Is all prayer that *is* directed toward our GOD *really* true prayer? Lu.18:9-11

No! This self-righteous man 'prayed to himself' (Jesus' words). Self deceived?

Is all prayer, even of Christians, really true prayer? James 4:3

No! Much of our prayers are rejected due to our selfish motives. God won't listen.

What is clear from this? What do we as Christians surely need? Lu.11:1

We surely need instruction on how to pray properly. Pray to our Father in heaven.

But *why* pray? He already knows...Ps.139

Can we hide anything from GOD? Ps.139:1 Why not? vs.2-4

No! He knows our thoughts and everything about us.

Did David understand these truths? vs.5 Comment??

No, and neither do I. This indeed is to wonderful. It's part of Who He is.

On the basis of this (His) knowledge, would prayer appear to be necessary?

Apparently not! God already knows our needs and our thoughts. He is omniscient.

Some Scriptural reasons *why* Christians should pray...

It is natural. Why do we pray based on Jn.1:11-13; Rom.8:14-17

He is our Father. The Father-child bond demands that we pray. It is natural.

It is required. What is the reason to pray given in Ps.32:1-6?

For confession and forgiveness. Note vs.4, the consequences of un-confessed sin.

How does IJn.1:8-10 support this truth?

Believers must acknowledge and confess personal sin. Agree with God about our sin.

It is commanded. What are we commanded to do in Heb.4:14-16? WHY?

We are to come boldly to His throne (in prayer). He is our faithful/gracious high priest.

What *purpose* does this prayer have? Heb.4:16 Comment?

It is to obtain mercy and grace to help us in our times of need. He will help!

It is necessary. What reason for prayer is seen in IPet.2:9?

All believers are priests who minister and pray and intercede. We need help!

It is a privilege. What purpose for prayer is seen in Ps.103:1?

It is to bless (praise, honor, hallow, recognize) His holy name. Him and His name.

It is logical. What purpose is seen in Ps.103:2

To be thankful! To not forget all His abundant blessings and grace and ...