

## WHY PRAY

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*“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.”* Luke 11:9&10.

Prayer is an amazing action, promising great rewards, and should be a vital part of every believers day. Hundreds of verses in the Bible promise great results and blessings if we use them as God intends. In prayer we can carry on a daily running conversation with our Heavenly Father. We all should know the verses I just gave by heart and have found them to be true. One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith is that God wants us to talk with him about everything. Even that which is going on in our lives, even though He dwells within, and knows everything. Then why does He invite us to ask, seek, and knock, bringing everything to Him? **(1). Prayer Helps Us To Resist The Devil:** *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”.* Eph. 6:12. Have you not noticed how many times the phone rings, or a knock on the door, or any disturbance that takes your mind off prayer. Satan does not want you talking to your Father, and will do much to disturb your conversation with God. When you pray, and take a stand with God, the devil is angered, for he works constantly to thwart the will of God. He interrupted Jesus in His prayers, and will do the same to you. Satan can fill your heart with doubt, encourage weakness, unbelief, and must be resisted in the power of Christ dwelling within you. Remember, *“Put on the whole*

*armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* Eph 6:11. Command the devil to go away, and leave you to the joy of prayer fellowship with your Saviour. Prayer is a God appointed way to resist him. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,”* James 4:7. **(2). . By Prayer We Obtain What We Need From God:** Please go back to the first scripture of this sermon and read it carefully. No where in the Bible does God state it more clearly than Luke 11:9&10. Whatever we need we are urged to ask, seek, and knock. Although I am sure He dwells within, He encourages us in our own words to come to Him. He also knows our needs, but loves to hear our petition. He is like an earthly father who knows the needs of a son, but loves to hear, “Dad will you help me?” We really need to get our eyes off of bank accounts and hopeful jobs and all manner of earth created worries. Our heavenly Father stands ready to provide each genuine need for His children. Not always does He grant our wants, but our needs are a sure thing. Like a doting father he hovers near to meet the needs of His own. He knows about a job, family needs, sickness and other facts of life and the best way to help us.” *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* “Phil. 4:6. **(3). Prayer Brings Grace In Our Hour Of Need:** *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* Heb. 4:16. The word “grace” in the Dictionary is given as the unmerited favor and love of God toward man, causing the actions of a person influenced by a divine God to please Him. From the world’s side it is an attractive quality, a sense of what is right, decent, and proper in actions and reactions. There are times when we believers become so weighted down we are not very graceful in our words and actions. We need to ask God to so control our

thoughts, and actions, that they will be pleasing to the Lord who lives within. We are constantly being observed by a world that knows nothing about the grace and mercy of God. We must snuggle deep into God's love, trusting Him for our needs as He has promised. He has the strength and wisdom we need to meet any problem or test we face. He dwelling within us knows exactly what we need, and how and when to provide it. In prayer we seek His blessing and the promised provision of our needs. As our loving Father He will always sustain us, and guide us in His path of wisdom. **(4). Prayer Frees Us From Anxiety And Brings Peace:** *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:6&7. In prayer consider your life, and be sure there is nothing wrong between you and God. Consider the wonderful things He has done over the years, and all the blessings received, and the battles won. Dwelling within He knows the cause of your anxiety, so commit it to Him, and keep going with peace in your heart. Like the small boy holding his father's hand in a frightening situation said, "We ain't scared are we dad." Our creator and heavenly Father can certainly walk us through to safety and blessing. Our trust in His power will certainly bring peace to our anxious hearts. Like the dear old song says "Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there." By prayer you can crawl out of the anxiety bag and stretch out in His blessing and provision. Another old song puts it "He is able to deliver thee." So please remember "Why worry when you can pray." In prayer develop a trust in the God who made you and sustains you forever. **(5). Prayer Allows Us The Way To Dip Into His Bag Of Eternal Goodies:** *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever*

*things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."* Phil. 4: 8&9. When I was a boy my parents would keep a bag of goodies, and if we were good, we could reach in, and enjoy chosen goodies. When my kids were growing up there was a good boy box on the top of the high refrigerator. When I returned home after a crusade, if they had been good, they got to feel inside and choose a toy. I believe God the Father loves faithfulness, and holds many rewards, and listens to our prayers. As it pleases Him He gives wonderful things to the faithful. Think and live in the realm of the spiritual things listed above, and God will bless you, and supply His rewards for your faithful requests in prayer. **(6). God Just Longs For Us To Talk With Him:** We are told to *"Be careful for nothing."* Phil 4:6: To *"Pray without ceasing."* I Thess 5:17. And promised *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:19. One of many things about our Creator is His great fatherly love, which led Him to give His Son for our redemption. That love is so very great it cannot be measured by our human devices. When we accepted Christ as Saviour we entered the family of God in a family union that cannot be broken. He sees our tears, and knows our worries, and the challenges we face every day. His love is not limited nor His strength weakened by anything. He sees us when we stray and welcomes us when we return. He knows our every weakness, and exactly what we will face as His child. Oh that we would stop running to and fro like inexperienced kids, and just run daily to Him in prayer. **Praying Strengthens Our Relationship With God, Drawing Us Nearer To Him.**