

How to Pray

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I. Introduction.

II. Definition.

- A. Prayer is the speaking part of a relationship.
- B. Prayer is a relationship between an ordinary human being and an extraordinary God. (Romans 7:4)
- C. A lack of communication is the beginning of the end of a relationship. (Colossians 3:24)
- D. Prayer is a friendship where there is mutual communication. (John 15:15)

III. Reasons for prayer.

- A. There ought to be a desire to pray. If there is not we ought to check the validity of the profession we make.
- B. We should pray because Jesus commanded us to pray. (Luke 18:1)
- C. Prayer is the characteristic of a healthy spiritual experience. (John 15:7-8)
- D. It is the Lord's attitude to pray.
 - 1. He is our example. (Matthew 14:23)
 - 2. Prayer is an expectation. (Matthew 6)
 - 3. Jesus explained what it was that the disciples were to pray. (Luke 11:2)
 - 4. Jesus exhorted to pray in order to avoid temptation. (Matthew 26:41)

IV. What we should pray.

- A. Praise.
- B. Rectify. It is best to put wrong things right in a relationship.
- C. Anything else.
- D. Yourself.

V. When we should pray.

- A. We should pray regularly. (Daniel 6:10)
- B. We should pray spontaneously. (Nehemiah 2:4)
- C. We should pray continually. This refers to an attitude of prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

VI. How we should pray.

- A. In the name of Jesus. (John 14:13)
- B. According to his will. (1 John 5:13-14)
- C. In the Spirit. (Jude 20; Romans 8:26-27)
- D. In faith. (James 1:5-7)
- E. With thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

VII. Why prayer does not work.

- A. One's relationship to God is wrong. (1 John 3:22)
- B. One's relationship to family is wrong. (1 Peter 3:6-7)
- C. One's relationship to others is wrong. (Matthew 5:23-24)
- D. One's relationship to self is wrong. (James 4:3)
- E. One's relationship to sin is wrong. (Psalm 66:18)

Application questions:

1. Which reason for prayer do you find to be most convincing? Why?

2. Which area of prayer could you spend more time on specifically?

3. How would you describe what prayer is to a new believer? Explain.
