



Honest Questions

Part 3: About Prayer

1. Key words.

_____ : An act of communion with God, such as in devotion, confession, praise, requesting, or thanksgiving.

_____ : To pray or plead on behalf of another person.

_____ : To seek or ask for something humbly ("kneeling").

2. Why pray when God already knows? (Grudem 376)

Matthew 6:8b states that, "...your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." So why should we pray when God already knows what we're going to say?

3. In what ways can we misunderstand prayer?

By viewing prayer as a _____

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By viewing prayer as a _____

4. Are there times when our prayers may be hindered?

Jas. 4:3 –

1 Pet. 3:7 –

Matt. 21:22—

5. How can we prevent “mechanical” praying?

6. What did Jesus tell us about prayer? (Matt. 6:9-13)

We are to begin with the _____.

“Our Father in heaven...” (Matt. 6:9b)

We are to _____ His name.

“Hallowed be your name...” (Matt. 6:9b)

We are to pray for the advancement of God’s _____.

“Your kingdom come...” (Matt. 6:10a).

We are to place _____.

“...Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10b)

We are to have a _____ on God for our daily needs.

“Give us this day our daily bread...” (Matt. 6:11).

We are to maintain a _____.

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

We are to recognize that we are _____ temptation and the evil one.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matt. 6:13).

7. How does Paul’s prayer list in the following passage compare with our prayer list?

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light” Col. 1:9-12.

8. How can we expect our personal prayer life to change as we mature spiritually?

It goes from...	To...
Mechanical praying.	
Emphasizing only the physical needs of others.	
What we want.	
Self-advancement.	
General.	
Distant and guarded.	

Supplemental Reading

Breakthrough Prayer, by Jim Cymbala (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2003).

Know What You Believe, by Renè Schlaepfer, September 25, 1996.

Power Through Prayer by E. M. Bounds (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1982).

Prayer Conversing With God by Rosalind Rinker (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1959).

Praying the Scriptures by Evan B. Howard (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1999).