

How To Pray Effectively

By John Miller

When friends don't see each other or talk to one another, they can become emotionally separated. It is the same with God. You begin to feel distanced from Him. That is why you must pray daily. Also, when you spend time with people you respect, the character of that person rubs off on you. Again, it is the same with God; His character is formed in you when you pray.

It doesn't take a whole lot to discourage us; being distanced from God will do it. It is important to start the day with prayer. We have to establish ourselves as being connected to God. How can we receive if we don't ask?

Growing up, if you wanted something, you asked for it. Even though you want something, you won't get it if you don't ask for it. Our relationship with God is exactly like that. He knows what you want but you have to ask. With God nothing will be impossible; no matter how big or small (Matt. 12:30).

If you have any doubt about the importance of prayer or if you are praying irregularly; read the Bible passages that support the reasons for prayer (*see chart page 2*).

Sometimes God will refuse to give us what we ask for and we don't understand why; but God knows best. In time you will understand why He refuses some of our prayers as long as you keep praying and doing God's work.

Do not take God for granted and expect what you ask for all the time. Prayer is not like turning on a recorder while we go about our way. Our prayers have to come from within. Tell God how much you love Him. Thank Him for all that he has done for you. Tell God how dependent you are on Him. Even though He knows, tell Him everything that is in your heart. Give Him all of your requests. Praise Him for working in your life. You must believe that when you pray, He will answer. Have no doubt in your mind about God answering.

We know what to pray for and we know when we need to pray. Most often people struggle with how to pray. Do you pray for something until you get it? Do you pray only one time and expect God to grant your request? Do you demand things from God in prayer like the parable in Luke eighteen with the widow and the judge? Do you complain to God about not getting what you prayed for? Do you wait until the last minute to ask God for things that you needed yesterday?

Reasons To Pray

To seek the face of God	-	Psalm 27:8
To get your eyes off of your problems	-	Psalm 121:1-3
To speak to God	-	I Peter 3:12
To unburden your heart	-	Psalm 142:1-2
To make your requests known to God	-	Matthew 21:22
To hear God	-	Proverbs 8:34
To be free of suffering	-	James 5:13
To resist temptation	-	Matthew 26:41
To be rescued from distress	-	Psalm 107:19
To receive God's reward	-	Matthew 6:6
To withstand evil	-	Ephesians 6:13
To have joy	-	John 16:24
To get close to God	-	Isaiah 64:7
To have peace	-	Philippians 4:6-7
To confess sins	-	I John 1:9
To thank God for His goodness	-	Colossians 4:2
To ask for our daily needs	-	Matthew 6:11
To offer petitions for others	-	I Timothy 2:1