



Our Search for God through Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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Matthew 6:9-13

“This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

The challenge of prayer.

The need for prayer.

The hope of prayer.

The Challenge of Prayer

“I can think of nothing great that is also easy. Prayer must be, then, one of the hardest things in the world. To admit that prayer is very hard, however, can be encouraging. If you struggle greatly in this, you are not alone.”

- Timothy Keller, *Prayer*

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras... is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

“Our Father in Heaven.”

Genesis 3:8

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the Garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

We need perspective to see where and how God is at work in our lives.

We need the Spirit of God to help us see the things of God.

Worry chokes out our ability to see where and how God is at work in our lives.

The Need for Prayer

We have needs.

Give us this day, our daily bread...

“Daily bread is the central, third request, the hinge on which the whole prayer turns. Daily bread is the heartbeat at the prayer’s center.”

- Tyler Staton, *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools*

We need to breathe...spiritually.

“Prayer, the exercise of your relationship with God, is what fills that void, and it is the only natural filler. All other substitute loves will let you down. Praying is as natural as breathing because prayer is the breath of the soul.”

- St. Augustine

Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Prayer Activates Our Faith

“Prayer is faith in action. When we have faith, we believe in something that we can't see and so when we pray we're putting that faith into action.”

- Bethany Cooke

Prayer is a part of our formation process in Jesus.

“The search for God, then, has the function of transforming our minds, which, in turn, transforms our hearts.”

- St. Augustine, *101 Questions on Prayer*

The Hope of Prayer