

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,
that if we ask anything according to His will, He
hears us. And if we know that He hears us,
whatever we ask, we know that we have the
petitions that we have asked of Him.

1 John 5:14-15

The Hardest Question

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The Danger of Christian “Cliff Notes” on Prayer

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“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7

The Hardest Question

The Danger of Christian “Cliff Notes” on Prayer

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”

Matthew 18:19

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“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”

Matthew 18:19

What about world peace and the end of all wars?

The Hardest Question

The Danger of Christian “Cliff Notes” on Prayer

“And whatever things you ask in prayer,
believing, you will receive.”

Matthew 21:22

The Hardest Question

The Danger of Christian “Cliff Notes” on Prayer

“And whatever things you ask in prayer,
believing, you will receive.”

Matthew 21:22

Does this mean if you pray and believe, like Moses did, God will give you something harmful to you?

The Hardest Question

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Why doesn't God answer my prayers?

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Why didn't God do what I prayed He would do?

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Why doesn't God love me? Because if He did, He would not have let happen what happened?

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Where was God during my time of deepest need?

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Why didn't God do what I prayed He would do?

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Where was God during my time of deepest need?

I prayed to God for _____ and it did not happen.

The Hardest Question

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Why didn't God do what I prayed He would do?

Why doesn't God love me? Because if He did, He would not have let happen what happened?

Where was God during my time of deepest need?

I prayed to God for _____ and it did not happen.

Why? Is the problem with me? Am I not doing enough? Or is the problem with God?

Prayer

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What is prayer?

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What are we to expect when we pray?

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How are we to deal with unanswered prayers?

And why is this so important?

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“Prayer is talking to God.”

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But,

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Prayer is also allowing God to talk to you.

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Does that happen in your prayer life?

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Prayer is also allowing God to talk to you.

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And if so, what is it like?

How does our Father talk to you?

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Do you understand what these verses mean?

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Question:

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Why should the Gentiles say,
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Answer:

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Do you understand what these verses mean?

Question:

Why should the Gentiles say,
“So where is their God?”

Answer:

But our God is in (His) heaven;
He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 115:2-3

What are we to expect when we pray?

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What are we to expect when we pray?

For I know that the LORD is great,
and our Lord is above all gods.

Whatever the LORD pleases He does,
(where) in heaven and in earth,
in the seas and in all deep places.

Psalm 135:6

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Psalm 135:6

In other words, everywhere!

What are we to expect when we pray?

Remember the former things of old, for I am God,
and there is no other; I am God,
and there is none like Me,

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from
ancient times things that are not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel (advice, purpose) shall stand,
and I will do all My pleasure (desire).'

Isaiah 46:9-10

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“For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.

No one can restrain His hand or say to Him,
“What have You done?”

Daniel 4:34-35

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“Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd (earthen vessel) strive with the potsherds (earthen vessels) of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ Or shall your handiwork say, ‘He has no hands’? Woe to him who says to his father, ‘What are you begetting?’ Or to the woman, ‘What have you brought forth?’ ”

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You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” Does not the potter have power (*exousia* – authority) over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

Romans 9:19-21

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Romans 9:19-21

Job 41:1-5

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“Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook?

Will he make many supplications to you?

Will he speak softly to you?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens?”

Job 41:1-5

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Job 41:6-10

“Will your companions make a banquet of him?
Will they apportion him among the merchants?

Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with
fishing spears? Lay your hand on him; remember the
battle— never do it again!

Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false;
shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him?”

No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up.

Who then is able to stand against Me?”

Job 41:11-14

“Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him?
Everything under heaven is Mine. I will not
conceal his limbs, his mighty power, or his graceful
proportions.

Who can remove his outer coat?
Who can approach him with a double bridle?
Who can open the doors of his face,
With his terrible teeth all around?”

Job 41:15-20

“His rows of scales are his pride, shut up tightly as with a seal; one is so near another that no air can come between them; they are joined one to another, they stick together and cannot be parted.

His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes.”

Job 41:21-25

“His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth. Strength dwells in his neck, and sorrow dances before him. The folds of his flesh are joined together; they are firm on him and cannot be moved.

His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone. When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; because of his crashings they are beside themselves.”

Job 41:26-30

“Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; nor does spear, dart, or javelin. He regards iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee; slingstones become like stubble to him.

Darts are regarded as straw; he laughs at the threat of javelins. His undersides are like sharp potsherds; he spreads pointed marks in the mire.”

Job 41:31-34

“He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair. On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear. He beholds every high thing; he is king over all the children of pride.”

Job 42:1-4

Then Job answered the LORD and said:

“I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”

You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak;

You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’

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Job 42:5-6

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees You.

Therefore I abhor myself,
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“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees You.

Therefore I abhor myself,
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What are we NOT to expect when we pray?

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That God will tell you what He is doing or what will
happen next. That will probably never happen.

What are we NOT to expect when we pray?

Oswald Chambers

My Utmost for His Highest

What are we NOT to expect when we pray?

“Have you been asking God what He is going to do? He will never tell you. God does not tell you what He is going to do; He reveals to you Who He is.”

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My Utmost for His Highest

It's a matter of faith in Who God is.

God's Promises About Prayer

God's Promises About Prayer

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests (petition, a thing asked or an asking) be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds (how) through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

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Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent (*energéō* - to be operative, at work, to put forth power), prayer of a righteous man avails (*ischúō* - to be strong, to have power and ability) much.

James 5:16

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James 5:16

“Avails much” to whom? Me? Or God?

God's Promises About Prayer

Now this is the confidence (freedom in speaking, to speak openly, frankly) that we have in Him, that if we ask anything (condition) according to His will, (promise) He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know (*eidō*) that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

1 John 1:14-15

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1 John 1:14-15

Note: “according to His will”

God's Promises About Prayer

Promise One:

God's Promises About Prayer

Promise One:

Promise Two:

God's Promises About Prayer

Promise One:

Promise Two:

Underlying Condition:

God's Promises About Prayer

Promise One:

If we pray according to His will He hears us.

Promise Two:

Underlying Condition:

God's Promises About Prayer

Promise One:

If we pray according to His will He hears us.

Promise Two:

If He hears us He will grant our prayer, whatever it is.

Underlying Condition:

God's Promises About Prayer

Promise One:

If we pray according to His will He hears us.

Promise Two:

If He hears us He will grant our prayer, whatever it is.

Underlying Condition:

He only hears us if we pray according to His will.

God's Promises About Prayer

God's Promises About Prayer

So how do we know what the will of God is?

God's Promises About Prayer

So how do we know what the will of God is?

How can we learn to pray according to His will?

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For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16

God's Promises About Prayer

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Where do wars and fights come from among you?
Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that
war in your members?

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and
cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not
have because you do not ask.

James 4:1-2

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James 4:1-2

But what happens if we ask? Do we receive then?

God's Promises About Prayer

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss (*kakós* – bad, evil, improperly, wrong, in a miserable fashion), that you may spend it (prayer request) on your pleasures.

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world (*kósmos*) is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world (*kósmos*) makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:3-4

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What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

To know Him.

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

To know Him.

To speak to Him.

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

To know Him.

To speak to Him.

To have Him speak to you.

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

To know Him.

To speak to Him.

To have Him speak to you.

To know His will and experience His pleasure.

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

To know Him.

To speak to Him.

To have Him speak to you.

To know His will and experience His pleasure.

To think His thoughts and have the mind of His Son.

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

To know Him.

To speak to Him.

To have Him speak to you.

To know His will and experience His pleasure.

To think His thoughts and have the mind of His Son.

To have your will transformed into His will.

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To know Him.

To speak to Him.

To have Him speak to you.

To know His will and experience His pleasure.

To think His thoughts and have the mind of His Son.

To have your will transformed into His will.

To only want what He wants.

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To know Him.

To speak to Him.

To have Him speak to you.

To know His will and experience His pleasure.

To think His thoughts and have the mind of His Son.

To have your will transformed into His will.

To only want what He wants.

And to only ask for what His Son would ask for?

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

It's to live like this...

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

It's to live like this...

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Matthew 26:36-37

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

It's to live like this...

Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Matthew 26:38-39

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Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:40-41

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

It's to live like this...

Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

Matthew 26:42-43

What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

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Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “**O My Father**, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

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What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

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So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Matthew 26:44-46

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What is the True Purpose of Prayer?

And it's to live like this...

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And it's to live like this...

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
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“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
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Isaiah 55:8-9

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Then you've got to put in the time.

