

Prayer is The Heart of the Christian Life

The point of prayer is not to change God's mind but to shape ours, to make us fit for the kingdom, ready to live the only life possible in God's household:

one of love.

Anyone Ever Ask...

How DO we pray?

How does God answer prayer?

Why does God ignore my prayers?

Why didn't I get what I asked for?

Doesn't it say ask, seek, and knock?

How to Pray?

Five Petitions

Instruction on what attitude we must assume

How Does God Respond?

Lord's Prayer


Two versions

The same context but two different ethnicities

Luke 11:1-4 wrote to Gentile Christians

Matthew 6:9-13 wrote to Jewish Christians

Matthew wrote to reform their prayer

- 
- #1 God is the very source of holiness
God makes us holy - the gift of the Holy Spirit**
 - #2 It's for the coming kingdom which is already revealed in Jesus**
 - #3 The prayer for bread invites us to turn to God in all things
Recognition that we do need the essentials but just enough**

#4 “Forgiveness” - perhaps a word that can help us understand this is release from spiritual captivity for the forgiver as much as the forgiven one

Fear not that God will not forgive you unless you forgive others it’s about modeling our love on God’s mercy to us

#5 When tempted remember that God wants us to rely on power that comes through the Holy Spirit

Prayer is The Heart of the Christian Life

The point of prayer is not to change God's mind but to shape ours, to make us fit for the kingdom, ready to live the only life possible in God's household:

one of love.

Also, Prayer Just Might Be...

At the heart of a lot of Christian frustration

At the heart of a lot of misunderstanding

At the heart of a lot of pain

Verse 8 – Ambiguity?

Greek word
“anaideia”
doesn’t mean
persistence

It means
shamelessness

Does “his” refer to
the petitioner or
the sleeper?

Whose
shamelessness?

How about – God will act to
honor God’s name even when we
act in dishonorable ways?

**We are not the key that makes
prayer work**

**We seek, we knock, we ask
only because God has done so
first and continues to do so**

Verse 8 and How We Interpret It

Where do we think our actions and attitudes are the key to prayer or whether prayer is based instead on God's goodness

Perhaps the answer comes in how the text begins talking about God as father communicating a term of intimate care

It makes sense that we must begin with the God who and loving relationship with us prompts our prayers from the very start

Prayer is The Heart of the Christian Life

The point of prayer is not to change God's mind but to shape ours, to make us fit for the kingdom, and ready to live the only life possible in God's household:

one of love.

Our Two Best Prayers

“Help me,
Help me, Help me”

and

“Thank you,
Thank you, Thank you”

Anne Lamott wrote in *Traveling Mercies*

Prayer is The Heart of the Christian Life

The point of prayer is not to change God's mind but to shape ours, to make us fit for the kingdom, ready to live the only life possible in God's household:

one of love.