

Prayer Is Not . . .

- A MAGIC WAND.
- A FIRE EXTINGUISHER.
- A TUG OF WAR.
- A RITUAL TO RELIEVE GUILT.

Luke 11:1 (NLT) Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray . . .

4 BASICS ABOUT PRAYER

GOD LOVES FOR ME TO TALK TO HIM.

Psalm 27:8 (NLT) My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “LORD, I am coming.”

PRAYER SHOULD BE SINCERE SIMPLE AND PERSONAL.

Matthew 6:5-8 (ESV) “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

WHEN I PRAY . . .

MY DEPENDENCE NOT MY PERFORMANCE DETERMINES GOD’S ACCEPTANCE

GOD LOVES TO SHOW HIS GRACE BY ANSWERING PRAYER.

Psalm 120:1 (NLT) I took my troubles to the LORD; I cried out to him, and he answered my prayer.

THE WAY I LIVE IN RESPONSE TO WHAT GOD SAYS DETERMINES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MY PRAYERS.

I Have To Ask Myself 5 Questions . . .

Do I REUSE TO ADMIT Things I’ve Done Wrong In My Past?

Isaiah 59:2 (NLT) It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

Am I Currently IGNORING Any Of God’s Principles?

Psalm 66:16-20 (NLT) Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me. ¹⁷ For I cried out to him for help, praising him as I spoke. ¹⁸ If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹ But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. ²⁰ Praise God, who did not ignore my prayer or withdraw his unfailing love from me.

Am I Withholding FORGIVENESS From Anyone?

Mark 11:25 (NLT) But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

Do I REALLY WANT God’s Will For My Life?

1 John 5:14 (ESV) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

Do I Really BELIEVE God?