

Jesus encourages us to pray, to ask, seek, and knock. (Luke 11:9-10). And when we do, there is nothing like answered prayer. We stand in amazement when we are allowed to petition the God of the universe, and He not only hears us but answers our prayer. In light of this, you would think that we would pray more. I’ve asked myself that question many times, “Why don’t I pray more than I do?”

Why People Don’t Pray More (Craig Groschel suggests four reasons.)

- 1) **Not sure you know how to pray.** Is this legal, the right way? Am I doing it right?
- 2) **Get bored or distracted while trying to pray.**

I’ll be praying, really talking and connecting to God, when suddenly I find myself thinking things like “I really need to cut the grass today”. Suddenly our minds are off in another direction.

- 3) **Think your requests are too small for God.**

My problem is so little compared to everyone else’s problems. God is too busy for me.

- 4) **Not sure your prayers will make a difference.**

If God already knows what I need and want and He can do whatever He wants, then why do I need to pray? I prayed before, and it didn’t work. I can’t make a difference with my prayers.

“The one concern of the Devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” Samuel Chadwick

How many of you would say that your prayer life could be better? In this series, we will go back to the basics of prayer. Today, we will talk about how God hears us when we pray. Next week, we will talk about letting God speak to us, followed by a lesson on trading up.

Prayer is Relational Communication

Simply put, prayer is two people in a relationship talking and communicating with each other.

Psalm 4:3 (NLT) You can be sure of this: The LORD set apart the godly for himself. The LORD will answer when I call to him. You are set apart for God. He wants you to speak to Him, and He wants to speak to you. Relationship = Communication.

Example: What kind of relationship would you have with your spouse, friend, or business partner if you talked to them as much as you talked to God?

One of the main problems in any type of personal or business relationship is a lack of communication.

Psalms 5:1-3 Listen to my words, LORD, consider my lament. (In a relationship, you want the other person to hear your words.)

2 Hear my cry for help, my King and my God (My King and God), for to you I pray. (In a relationship you know that the other person wants to help you and would want you to ask.)

3 In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; God hears our voice! As we start the day off with prayer, and the Creator and Sustainer of the universe cares enough about us to listen and hear.

in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. Because we know God hears us, we wait with expectation! You are going to do something and I’m expecting it!

When you love someone and you are in a relationship with them, you can relax and communicate without fear of doing it right or doing it wrong.

- Not sure you know how to pray. *Pray anyway*, talk to the one you love. You will grow in your relationship with God, and you will grow in your communication with God.

- Get bored or distracted while trying to pray. *Pray anyway.* The more you fall in love with Jesus, the more excited you will be to communicate with Him. But you will never get to know Him if you don't talk to Him. That's how relationships work. **EX:** Scott's To Do List
- Think your requests are too small for God. *Pray anyway.* Are the things that are important to your children or your children's request too small for your full attention? Or things that are important to your spouse or your spouse's request too small for you? Of course, not because you love them, and you are in relationship with them. It's same with God.
- Not sure your prayers will make a difference. *Pray anyway.* When you are in relationship with someone, what they say makes a difference to you. You are concerned with what they say, and you would do anything within your power to help them. Your prayers make a difference.

God's Relational Offer

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. KJV-- abide, a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):

God's Relational Promise

Psalms 91:15-16 He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Calling to God = Answer + help in trouble + deliverance + honor + a satisfied long life + salvation.

Our Confidence

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. Condition: according to His will.

Our Guidelines

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

“Why Worry, When You Can Pray”. Pray about everything! The result will be peace from God.

Our Frequency

1Thes 5:17 pray continually; (NIV) 1Thes 5:17 pray without ceasing, (NKJ)

- In the Gospels, we will see that Jesus, right in the midst of a busy ministry, lifted up His eyes and spoke to the Father. Sometimes, He would have extended times of prayer (Luke 6:12, Mark 6:46). Other times, His words were short and to the point. Jesus seemed to understand how to have constant communication with the Father.
- Why? **Because Jesus and Father God were in a relationship.**

Today Let's Devote Ourselves to Prayer

At the conclusion of Paul's letter to the Colossians, he makes an interesting statement. He says, “Devote yourselves to prayer.” **Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.**

- Devote yourself to personal and family prayer times with Jesus, just to talk with Jesus.
- Devote yourself to Wednesday Night Corporate Prayer. 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. prior to Church.
 - All Children's/Student Ministries will be open early at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate prayer.
 - Then at 6:30 p.m. - Life Groups / EDGE / BC Kids / BC Tots / Next Step Classes.
- Devote yourself to Tuesday Staff Prayer. We are praying for you! Join us from 12- 1 pm.

- Prayer Request. Let us know how we can pray for you. Communication Cards each Sunday, Pastors Pray Cards (More on this in a minute), Comments on Facebook each Wednesday, and Believers Chat App. We have a Prayer Team that will be agreeing with you in prayer each week.
- Devote yourself to Special Events Prayer Tents (EX: Family Fun Day, Free Market, and other Carwash, Outreaches, etc.)

Devote Yourself to Pastor’s Prayer Partners 2023

Colossians 4:2-4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

As Paul would often ask, without shame or pride, I humbly ask you to pray for me. I also ask you to pray for all our Pastors, staff, and leaders of Believers Church. I ask, just like Paul asked the church in Rome to pray for him. **Romans 15:30 I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.**

1) “Pastor’s Prayer Partners”. Today I’m inviting you to sign up to be a Pastor’s Prayer Partner, but I only want you to do it if you will be seriously committed to it.

- A. You will commit to pray for your pastors’ needs, their families’ needs, and your church daily.
- You will pray that God will protect your Pastors physically, morally, mentally, and spiritually.
 - Pastors will update you with specific prayer requests for them and their families.
 - You will pray for Believers Church’s health, growth, and protection.
- B. The Pastors will also commit to pray for you daily.
- Write on the card two – three specific things that you want God to do for you this year. No one will see these requests except the pastors.
 - We will pray for you this year as you are praying for us. We will all be partnering in prayer.

2) “Pastor’s Prayer Partner Team”.

- This team commits to praying for the Pastors and Church daily, as well every Sunday as this team will pray for the Pastors, the ministry teams, the teachers, and the service in general asking the Holy Spirit to move in the lives of the attendees.
- The team prays 30 minutes prior to the service, 8:30 or 10:30 am in the Next Steps Room. They may also attend one, serve one and pray during the entire service.

Pastor’s Prayer Partner Commitment Form

Name: / Address: City/ States / Zip: / Birthdate: / Email: / Cell: / Other Phone:

- I commit to pray for my pastors’ needs, their families’ needs, and my church every day.
- I commit to join a Pastor’s Prayer Partner Team in prayer 30 minutes prior to at least two services per month to pray for God to move in the service.
- I commit to attend one, serve one and pray during the entire 1st or 2nd service once a month.
- I commit to being an active part of corporate prayer meetings at Believers Church.

This year I would like the Pastors to pray for me daily concerning these areas in my life.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____