

**REVIEW THESE KEY QUESTIONS CONCERNING PRAYER**

1. What is prayer? Please give your own definition of the term.

One simple definition of prayer is personal communication with God in worship. What can you conclude about the practice of prayer from the fact that it is:

- (a) personal?
- (b) communication with God?
- (c) a worship activity?

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2. True/False. The primary purpose of prayer is for God to find out what we need. See Matthew 6:8. Why do you think that God wants His people to pray?

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3. Some examples of prayer include intercession, petition, and praise. What are some other examples? Read the “Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9-13). What keys to effective prayer can you learn from Jesus’ model?

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- 4. How effective is prayer (James 5:13; Matthew 19:26)? Consider the following examples: Hannah (1 Samuel 1:11, 19, and 20), Elijah (1 Kings 17:17-24; 18:20-40), Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10), Jesus (John 11:38-44), and the disciples (Acts 4:23-31). What determines the limits of the effectiveness of our prayer requests (1 John 5:14-15 and Matthew 6:10)?

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- a. How do we discover God’s will for our lives? Each bulleted list of scriptures reveals a different way to discover God's will. Please do this for homework.

- Joshua 1:8; Psalm 37:31; Psalm 119:105,130
- Psalm 143:8; James 1:5; 1Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Exodus 3:4, Acts 9:3-4, 1 Kings 19:11, John 16:13
- Proverbs 11:14
- Philippians 4:6-9
- Acts 2:17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.
- Other Ways?

- b. What is faith? Give your own definition.

I define genuine Christian faith as an unwavering trust in and dependence on God that flows from an intimate relationship with him. What other aspects can you think of to further define the term?

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5. How often should we pray (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)?

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6. What are some hindrances to prayer?

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7. Review and Several Prayer Suggestions:

- (1.) Honor and glorify the triune God in your prayer.
- (2.) Remember that God’s ultimate desire is to bring you into fellowship with himself and to conformity with his will.
- (3.) Dedicate yourself to God. Give him control of your spirit, mind, emotions, intellect, hopes, dreams, and bodies.
- (4.) Repent of known sins. Confess them to him. If you are accountable to someone, confess your sins to them as well (see James 5:16).
- (5.) Check your heart for bitterness and unforgiveness. Surrender these to God.
- (6.) Bring your petitions before the Lord in confidence and faith.
- (7.) Ask God to refine your petitions to conform to his will. Embrace any alternatives that he brings into your life.
- (8.) Thank God for hearing your prayers.
- (9.) Give him glory, honor and praise once again.