

One day Jesus told a story to encourage His disciples to always take time to pray and not become discouraged. He said, “A certain town had a judge who did not respect God and really didn’t care too much for people. This poor widow repeatedly came to this judge pleading with him to settle her case with justice. In this time widows carried little respect and the judge did not care to bother himself with her problems. So he refused to hear her case even though justice would rule in her favor. But because she was so very persistent the judge finally said, ‘I do not fear God and I don’t really care about this woman’s situation, but I will settle her case just to get rid of her before she wears me out.’ And so this judge heard her case and ruled in her favor.”



The Jesus asked this question, “Do you think God is like this wicked judge. Does God only answer your prayers just to stop us from bothering Him?”

And then Jesus made the application to His story. “God is eager to answer prayers even though sometimes He waits before He answers. The time will come when God will settle all accounts and see that justice is done.” (Luke 18:1-7)

1. Having finished His story what question did Jesus ask? Luke 18:8

---

2. Prayer is a matter of faith. Do we believe that there is a God in heaven who really cares? If we know how to give good gifts to our children what did Jesus promise about our heavenly Father? Matthew 7:9-11

---

3. One day Jesus gave a great talk on the side of a mountain. What promise did He make regarding our prayers? Matthew 7:7-8

---

4.  Well, that’s pretty good. Did Jesus really mean that if I ask for a new red pickup all I have to do is ask and God will give it to me? In other words, is prayer simply a want list? Ask and it will be given to you? How should we ask?

- a. John 14:13 → “And whatever you ask in \_\_\_\_\_, that I will do, that the Father may be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son.”
- b. 1 John 5:14-15 → “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to \_\_\_\_\_ 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.”
- c. Jeremiah 29:12-13 → “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me \_\_\_\_\_.”
- d. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed to His Father to provide some way out of going to the cross. What words did Jesus use to close His petition? Mark 14:36 → And He said, “Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but \_\_\_\_\_.”

- e. Life can be perplexing. What should be done once we have made our requests to God? Psalm 37:7 → “Rest in the LORD, and \_\_\_\_\_ for Him;/ Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,/Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.”
  - f. How often should we pray? Colossians 4:2 → “ \_\_\_\_\_ earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;”
  - g. This is probably the most important point in our prayer requests. James 1:6-7 → “But let him ask in \_\_\_\_\_, for he who \_\_\_\_\_ is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;”
5. When we pray in Jesus’ name, according to God’s will, search for Him with all our heart, leave the matter with God, wait patiently for His reply, and with the faith that leaves no doubt we are assured that God will answer our prayers. However there are three possible ways that God will answer our petitions:

- a. #1: God will say **“Yes!”** to the request.

In Acts 12 Herod had already executed James and now he had Peter in prison. The church members were in constant prayer asking that Peter be released. During the night an angel was sent to take Peter out of prison. Next Peter walked over to the home where the prayer services were being conducted and knocked on the door. Rhoda went to the door and was so surprised to see Peter that she failed to open the door and left Peter outside while she told the others that he was at the door.



- b. #2: God will say **“No!”** to the request.

- i. In 2 Corinthians 12 the apostle Paul had some physical problem that for three times He asked the Lord to remove. The Lord denied his request stating that, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
- ii. Let’s go back to the red pickup truck. What reason does James give for not receiving all that we ask for? James 4:3

- c. #3: God will say **“Wait!”** for His reply.

In the third year of Belshazzar’s reign Daniel received a vision. He was given partial understanding of the vision’s meaning, but he wanted to know what the whole vision meant. Finally in the first year of Darius’s reign Gabriel came to give Daniel a wider interpretation of the vision. It could have been some 13 years that Daniel waited for the fuller meaning. (Daniel 8 & 9)

- d. “Yes” or “No” or “Wait” → To pray in God’s name and in His will means that we must understand that God will give an answer how and when He is ready. We must have the faith to accept this and be satisfied with the results.

6. Here are some interesting facts about prayer that raise two questions.

a. The facts:

- i. Fact #1 is from Isaiah 65:24 → “It shall come to pass/**That before they call, I will answer**;/And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”
- ii. Fact #2 is from Matthew 6:8 → “Therefore do not be like them. For **your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**”

b. Question #1: Is God aware of our needs and answers our prayers before we pray?

Yes  No

c. Question #2: If God answers our prayers before we pray then why should we pray?

- i. John 15:14-15 → “You are My \_\_\_\_\_ if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you \_\_\_\_\_, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

Note: Our prayers do not always have to be requests (vending machine prayers) but we pray to Jesus in order to maintain the relationship.

- ii. Luke 11:2 → “So He said to them, “When you pray, say:/Our \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven,/Hallowed be Your name./Your kingdom come./Your will be done/On earth as *it is* in heaven.”

Note: Because of Jesus we have a heavenly Friend and a heavenly Father. When we pray in this manner we are reminded that we have a heavenly relationship.

Donna and I have no greater joy than to get a phone call our children. As parents we love to hear from them and discover what is going on in their lives. I guess all parents are like this – including our heavenly Father.

Daniel 9:4 → “And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,”

When we pray like Daniel we make the following acknowledgments:

1. We recognize that God is our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We confess that He is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God.
3. Our prayers help us realize that God \_\_\_\_\_ His covenants.
4. We are reminded that God maintains His \_\_\_\_\_ with those who love Him and keep His commandments.



d. One of our denomination’s founders, Ellen White, wrote these words in a book titled Steps to Christ. → “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”

e. **Prayer is for our benefit.**

7. What request did the disciples make to Jesus? Luke 11:1



Jesus gave them this model prayer: (Luke 11:2-4 NIV)

‘Father,	We acknowledge that God is our _____.
hallowed be your name,	_____ in prayer to God.
your kingdom come.	Express hope and faith in His _____.
Give us each day our daily bread.	Claim the _____ of God supplying our needs.
Forgive us our sins,	God is the only _____ of forgiveness.
for we also forgive everyone who	God will only forgive us as we _____ others.
sins against us.	(Matthew 6:14-15)
And lead us not into temptation’	Turn to God to escape _____. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

8. Okay, Jesus gave us the model prayer. But we still feel that our words could be better stated and our prayers aren’t very good. Even worse, do we always know what to pray for? Is there any help with our prayers? Romans 8:26-27

- 
- a. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to:
    - i. inspire or move \_\_\_\_\_ to pray,
    - ii. to teach \_\_\_\_\_ what to say,
    - iii. and even to speak for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The Holy Spirit takes our poor words and translates them into the beautiful language of heaven.
  - c. It is God’s love and purpose to send the Holy Spirit to help us when we pray.



Note: In addition to what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf, the Holy Spirit is another reason why we can boldly approach God’s throne of grace and find divine help.

- d. “What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children.” (Steps to Christ, Ellen White, p. 94)

9. The whole point of the Christian’s life and our prayers is that we are to desire and seek a life of heavenly righteousness. What promise do we have if this is our goal? Matthew 5:6

10. “Heavenly righteousness” There is one sure thing that will prevent God from hearing our prayers. What would that be? Psalm 66:18

11. We cannot serve two masters. Therefore if we intend to keep iniquity in our hearts we cannot be linked to Jesus. What promise do we have if we maintain our relationship with Jesus? John 15:7

12. Jesus is our example for praying. John recorded one of Jesus’ prayers in John 17. These are some of the last recorded words of Jesus just before He was arrested and then crucified. At the time what three things did Jesus pray for?



- a. John 17:1 & 5 → \_\_\_\_\_
- b. John 17:11 & 17 → \_\_\_\_\_
- c. John 17:20-21 → \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples, and for us who believe in Him. When He prayed for the disciples and us He was praying an intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayers are prayers on the behalf of others.

- 13. What were the results when Job prayed for his friends? Job 42:10  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14. What did Stephen pray for as he was being stoned? Acts 7:59-60  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 15. From question #5a what was a whole church praying for? Acts 12:5  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 16. James summarized intercessory prayer. What was the main topic for intercessory prayer? James 5:13-16  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 17. Postures for Prayer. The Scriptures gives a diversity of options and possibilities. Postures are important only to the extent that they are the external expression of reverence, inner feelings, and commitments to the Lord. These prayer postures can be found in the Bible:
  - a. The following postures are mostly for corporate prayers at worship:
    - i. Kneeling: There are many examples of people praying to the Lord on their knees. Daniel, Stephen, Peter are only a few. Kneeling was an expression of willing surrender to God.
    - ii. Standing: Standing before the Lord was a common practice. Jehoshaphat, Hannah, the publican, Matthew 11:25.
  - b. The next postures are mostly for private prayers.
    - i. Prostration
    - ii. Laying in bed
    - iii. Sitting down



- 18. It is no wonder that Ellen White made this comment, “What a wonder it is that we pray so little!” What was one of the sources of Jesus power? Mark 1:35  
\_\_\_\_\_

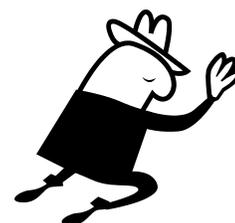
Story: The story is told of a man praying and asking God if He would answer a few questions. As the story goes, God granted the man permission to ask any question he may have.

So the man asked, “God, is it true that to you one second is as a million year?”

God replied, “Yes, that’s true.”

Then the man asked, “God, is it true that to you a million dollars is the same as a penny?”

Again God said, “Yes, That is also true.”



Finally the man asked, “God, could you give me a penny?”

And then God replied, “Yes, but you’ll have to wait a second.”

19. Hebrews 11:6 → But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who \_\_\_\_\_ seek Him.



**May your prayer life tie you into an eternal relationship with God!**