

#3 Why Pray?

Series: Understanding Prayer

A. If we *only* talk to a person when we want something from them, then, honestly, that really doesn't look all that much like _____

1. Even though most relationships start out with _____ motives, for any love to last a lifetime, invariably, a shift has to happen whereby you make the decision to find your happiness in *their* happiness
2. If prayer is about our relationship with God, then prayer should *not* simply be about what God will do for us; that is not true love

B. Asking God for things should not be the *only* reason, or even the primary reason, we pray; instead, our prayers should be about something much, much deeper than that. However, asking God, making _____ to God, is certainly part of Jesus' teachings on prayer to us

- 6 Points Concerning Supplication

1. Jesus said to "ask" with _____, trusting that God wants the best for you and me (just as we should want what is best for God)
 - a. Mt 7; Lk 18
2. God reserves the right to answer our prayers in ways that are far beyond our comprehension
 - a. Is 55:8-9
3. God will not often violate the principle of _____
4. God will not often not violate the principle of personal responsibility
5. God will not often violate the principle of natural law
6. God will not often violate the principle of character development

C. So, Why Pray at All?

1. I pray to _____ God better; I pray because I love God and because God loves me; I pray because I want to talk to, communicate with, and share my life with God. I pray because I genuinely love and cannot imagine an existence without a close relationship to my Heavenly Father

2. Other/Formal Reasons

1. Prayer changes the heart of the person who is praying
2. Prayer changes the *mind* of the person who is praying
3. Sometimes, God changes physical circumstances when we pray
4. Prayer draws us into the general will of God, that helps all things to work towards their intended purpose
5. Prayer draws us into the specific will of God, which helps meet our specific needs, even in the midst of human freedom, natural law, personal responsibility & character development

D. What about you? Where does prayer fit into *your* life?

A. love A1. selfish B. supplication B1. persistence 3. free will C1. know