

QUESTIONS

ABOUT PRAYER

PART 6



REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

DOES PRAYER CHANGE
GOD'S MIND?

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN,
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO
TO PRAY?

WHY PRAY IF GOD
ALREADY KNOWS
ALL OF YOUR NEEDS?

DOES PRAYER CHANGE CIRCUMSTANCES,
OR DOES IT ONLY CHANGE US?



REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

IF GOD DOESN'T ANSWER
YOUR PRAYER, IS IT BECAUSE
YOU LACK THE FAITH?

IF MORE PEOPLE PRAY FOR SOMETHING,
IS IT MORE LIKELY THAT GOD WILL
GRANT THAT REQUEST?

DOES GOD ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF THOSE
WITH THE 'GIFT OF INTERCESSION'
MORE OFTEN THAN THE PRAYERS
OF OTHER PEOPLE?



REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:

WHY WON'T GOD
HEAL AMPUTEES?

TONIGHT:

IF PRAYER IS SUPPOSED TO BE A
CONVERSATION WITH GOD,
HOW COME I NEVER HEAR
ANYTHING BACK?



PRAYER AND MIRACLES

1. We tend to over-attribute events in our lives as “miracles,” but that does not mean that miracles do not still occur.
2. There are many things that *can* be explained through the laws of nature, but that does *not* mean that God is not actively involved in the situation (i.e.: *extraordinary providence*)
3. We should be thankful to God in all things: in calamity, in His ordinary providence and in His extraordinary providence. And we should accept that we may never know which is at work.



TALKING TO GOD

1. Is prayer supposed to be relational?

Yes.

2. Is prayer supposed to be a dialogue, as in me speaking to God and God speaking to me?

Yes.

3. Are we supposed to approach God as Sovereign King, or as a friend, or both?

Both.

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:12-15)



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God is referred to as “Father” 170 times in the New Testament.



TALKING TO GOD

4. How often should we pray?

“Without ceasing” – 1 Thes. 5:17 (NASB)

“Pray continually” – 1 Thes. 5:17 (NIV)

“Pray at all times” – Eph. 6:18 (NASB)

“Pray on all occasions” – Eph. 6:18 (NIV)

5. Is it actually possible to pray continually? I don't even talk to my friends that long.

Henri Nouwen:

Prayer does not mean that you think about God in contrast to your life, or that you spend time with God instead of spending time elsewhere.

Rather, it means that we live in the presence of God.



TALKING TO GOD

6. Is prayer just for giving thanks?
No.

A - Adoration

C - Confession

T - Thanksgiving

S - Supplication



TALKING TO GOD

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No.

Our Best Model: The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13
Luke 11:2-4



TALKING TO GOD

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Our Best Model: The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13
Luke 11:2-4

7. Is there a correct way to pray in
front of other people?
Yes.



HEARING FROM GOD

1. Audible Voice from God
2. Angelic Visitation
3. Vision
4. Dream



These modes of communication are exceedingly rare, even throughout the Scriptures.

Dallas Willard: *“If you’ve ever found yourself in a position of saying, ‘God has never spoken to me,’ then you might ask yourself, ‘Why should God speak to me? What am I doing in life that would make speaking to me a reasonable thing for Him to do? Are we in business together in life? Or am I in business just for myself, trying to use a ‘little God’ to advance my projects?”*

HEARING FROM GOD

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For a people who cherish their free will and preach to others that God allowed free will so that we could love him without being “robots,” it seems odd that we want to hear from God every day with minute-by-minute instructions as if we were robots.

HEARING FROM GOD

1. Audible Voice from God
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3. Vision
4. Dream



Just like we over-attribute things as “miracles,”
is it possible that we over-attribute things with the words:

“God spoke to me and said...”

HEARING FROM GOD

1. Audible Voice from God
2. Angelic Visitation
3. Vision
4. Dream
5. The Still Small Voice (1 Kings 19)

“God speaking to using our own thought processes, even while we are still in control of our faculties.”



HEARING FROM GOD

1. Audible Voice from God
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5. The Still Small Voice (1 Kings 19)

Kyle Lake: “(Re)Understanding Prayer”

Often, we consider it failure when, in the midst of prayer, our thoughts drift off somewhere else. But we should recognize these thoughts as windows into the world taking place in our own hidden, interior life.

This is who we really are, what we are really concerned with, where our thoughts truly reside. And we can open those up to God right there in His presence.



HEARING FROM GOD

1. How do I know the difference between God's voice and my own, particularly if the voice tells me something that seems to be okay to do?
2. How do I know that it's not Satan putting thoughts into my head.
3. Can I do something to make it more likely that I will be better able to discern God's communicating with me?





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INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

WE WELCOME YOU TO SEND FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR HOW EXODUS HAS IMPACTED YOU. EMAIL US AT:

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