

**QUESTIONS**

**ABOUT PRAYER**

**PART 8**



# 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?

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

HOW DO I DISTINGUISH BETWEEN  
GOD'S VOICE AND MY OWN?



**REVIEW OF OUR SERIES:**

**TONIGHT:**

**THE REST OF YOUR  
QUESTIONS**



# TALKING TO GOD

1. Is prayer supposed to be relational?  
*Prayer is certainly a key part of our relationship; it is our birthright; it is not always meant to be a one-way dialogue.*



*Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

Romans 8:14-16

# TALKING TO GOD

1. Is prayer supposed to be relational?  
*Prayer is certainly a key part of our relationship; it is our birthright; it is not always meant to be a one-way dialogue.*



*Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

Galatians 4:6-7

# TALKING TO GOD

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



- *You may not experience God to constantly be speaking to you, audibly or otherwise, but you should still remain expectant;*
- *Prayer is not limited to the time we speak to God; prayer is a life intentionally lived in /with the presence of God;*
- *God's primary communication with us is His Word; God's next most likely means of communicating with us are thoughts prompted by the Holy Spirit; other methods are rare.*



# HEARING FROM GOD

1. In humility, we have to admit that there is no way that we can ever know for sure whether it is our thought, or one given (directed) by the Lord.
2. We can test our thoughts against Scripture, but Scripture has been used to justify a lot of crazy behavior and dangerous “revelations.”
3. We can test our thoughts (and other means of hearing from God) by bringing what we believe we heard to the community for prayer, wisdom and evaluation.
4. We can turn down the volume, and practice the disciplines.



# OTHER QUESTIONS

1. Is there anything Biblical about praying in a group? It seems that Jesus was almost always in solitude for prayer.
2. Does fasting make prayer more effective?
3. What are the pros or cons of ritual or liturgical prayer?
4. Should we pray “if the Lord will it,” or is that showing a lack of faith?
5. What about the verse that says the prayers of a righteous man are effective? Are the prayers of a non-righteous man futile?
6. Is there any point in a non-follower of Christ praying other than to decide to follow Christ?



# OTHER QUESTIONS

7. Do we need to confess our sins before God hears our prayers, or does sin just stop us from praying?
8. At what point do we know God's answer is "no" as opposed to the fact that we have not been persistent enough?
9. What is the difference between being persistent in our petitions and grumbling (like Exodus 16:8)?
10. If the purpose of prayer is to get to know God's character, wouldn't reading the Bible be more effective?
11. Why should we call others to pray for us if we are sick and not just pray for ourselves?



# OTHER QUESTIONS

12. If prayer is the way God's people petition him to act, if His people don't pray, does God not act?
13. What does "praying in the Spirit" mean and how do I do it?
14. What does the Bible say about prayer?  
(I want specific scriptures.)



# OTHER QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of prayer?

What should we pray for?

When we pray for others, what should we pray for?



- † Praise for God, and His Holiness;
- † Thanksgiving for all things, even hardship;
- † Surrender to the will of the Father;
- † Confession and repentance;
- † Petition, for ourselves and for others;
- † Communion (and that may involve communication)
- † Perspective



## WELCOME TO EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM

### 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.

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### 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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EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

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COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD  
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