

1. Does this mean we cannot ask for things we need?
2. Read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 for an answer to this
3. Do you understand that the Holy Spirit is vitally involved in our prayers?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 10

PRAYER

"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

Matthew 19:16

1. Is that a question you have asked?
2. Why do you think he asks the question?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

1. God's aim is always positive
2. Communication is at the heart of God's plan. God listens when we pray

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

Romans 8:26,27

1. As humans we are weak. We don't know what to pray for
2. The Holy Spirit 'speaks' on our behalf—in groans words cannot express.

This intercession is in accordance with God's will

3. In Revelation 2:23 we see that Jesus searches minds and hearts
4. Jesus gets to know of our needs because He knows the Holy Spirit's mind
5. Have you ever found yourself wanting to pray—and not knowing what to pray about?
6. Does this verse encourage you in any way?

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. Despite the difficulties we are urged to pray continually
2. God's will is that you pray
3. Prayer is not just about asking for things

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Hebrews 4:15,16

1. This describes Jesus, He understands us
2. Because of this we can have confidence in Him when we pray
3. Is there a friend you can trust like this?

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:6-8

1. Private prayer is good
2. Long, babbling prayers are not needed

3. God knows your needs before you ask—because the Holy Spirit has already interceded for you

“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

John 14:14

1. If we ask 'in Jesus name' then our prayers will be answered
2. What do you think this means?
3. How could we do that in our prayers?

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

John 15:7,8

1. A relationship with Jesus is needed
2. One purpose of having prayers answered is so that we bear fruit—and show ourselves to be disciples
3. How could we maintain that relationship?

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

1 John 5:14

1. We need to ask according to God's will to be heard
2. How do we get to know God's will?

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

James 4:3