

**What's the **BIG DEAL** about prayer?**



**PLUG**  
INTO THE  
**POWER**  
OF **PRAYER**

# What's the BIG Deal About Prayer?

## **Relationships depend on Communication**

- know lots about someone – not know them
- communicating is important

## **Almighty God – creator of all things invites us**

- created us for relationship
- redeemed us when separated by sin
- provided for us instruction and teaching
- gave us the indwelling Spirit of God

**The Power for the Christian life is linked to Prayer**

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# What's the BIG Deal About Prayer?

## 1. God Desires Our Prayer

- not annoyed, bothered, interrupted
- delights in the prayers of his children Prov. 15:8

### a) Jesus commands us to pray

- Matt. 6:5 – when you pray
- Matt. 6:7 – when you pray
- Matt. 6:9 – pray like this

### b) Jesus modeled prayer

- Luke 6:12 – prayed and chose disciples
- John 17 – prayed for his followers

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# What's the BIG Deal About Prayer?

## c) N.T. full of examples of prayer

- Phil. 1:9-11, Eph. 1:16-21, 3:14-19, Col. 1:9-12
- pray without ceasing – 1 Thess. 5:17
- Luke 22:40 – pray not to fall into temptation
- Luke 18:1 – parable – pray & not lose heart

## d) devote yourself to prayer a command

- Col. 4:2 “<sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”
- 6 times in N.T. words persevere in, devote to, continue in. Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4, Rom. 12:12, Eph. 6:18

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## 2. God Promises to Hear and Respond to Prayer

- Matthew 7: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

- ask, seek, knock – invitation to come
- find, given, open – promise of response
- good things – can trust the father

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- John 16:23-24... <sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

- told to ask in Jesus name

- promised Joy in trusting the Father

- Phil 4:6-7... <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

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## 3. Scripture Full of Accounts of Answered Prayer

- Isaiah 36 – 38
- Paul in Acts 21:30 ff

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# What's the BIG Deal About Prayer?

## 4. I Become Aligned with God in Prayer

- a) takes time and intention
- b) makes me articulate and place in perspective
- c) reminds me who I am asking
- d) allows me to release control and trust

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# What's the BIG Deal About Prayer?

## So What?

- 1. Prayer is Communication with the living God**
  - invited to the relationship
  - God is pleased to hear and respond
  - taught to persist and continue in prayer
- 2. Prayer comes with a promise of response**
  - God will respond to his children
  - God gives good gifts
  - prayer moves the hand of God
- 3. Scripture is full of the evidence**
  - God's will being revealed and accomplished through his children & Prayer

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# What's the BIG Deal About Prayer?

## 4. Will I participate in...

- renewing my perspective?
- making my time available to God?
- being willing to re-align?

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