



PART 4: HOW TO *ENERGIZE* YOUR PRAYER LIFE

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SELF ASSESSMENT	Often	Sometimes	Never
I find praying to be more of a duty than a delight			
I often don't know what to pray for			
I don't see many answers to my prayers			
I feel uncomfortable asking God to bless me			
I pray mostly about other people's physical needs			

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

1. Prayer is a **magic wand**.
2. Prayer is a **fire alarm**.
3. Prayer is a **tug-of-war**.
4. Prayer is a **religious duty**.

WHY PRAY WHEN GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING?

(Ps. 139:1-4 NIV) "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely."

Purpose No. 1: Prayer expresses my **dependence** on God.

(Jn. 15:5-7 NIV) "'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

Purpose No. 2: Prayer builds my **friendship** with Jesus.

(Jn. 15:15-16 NIV) "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. You did not choose me, but I chose

you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last-- and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

Purpose No. 3: Prayer brings God's joy and peace.

(Jn. 16:24 NIV) "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

(Phil. 4:5-7 NIV) "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Rom. 5:1 NIV) "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"

(Col. 3:15 NIV) "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Purpose No. 4: Prayer aligns my will to God's (John 14:11-13).

(1 Jn. 5:14-15 NIV) "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us-- whatever we ask-- we know that we have what we asked of him."

(Jn. 14:11-14 NIV) "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

WHY WE NEED PRAYER

"Prayer is something that we all should want to do on a daily basis. Yet for many Christians it can be a challenge to humble one's self in daily prayer. For those who have been walking with the Lord for many years, daily prayer may become stale and lacking in proper conviction or reverence. Whether one is a new believer or an established one, prayer should always be considered as the best way to speak to God. Imagine not speaking to a loved one or a close friend. How long would the relationship last?

Daily prayer with God is daily fellowship with our heavenly Father. It is truly amazing that God would want to have fellowship with us at all. In fact, the psalmist asks, "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:4). Daily prayer is a good way to understand this incredible truth and the marvelous privilege God has given us."

–S. Michael Houdmann