

PRAYER

“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made...”

Philippians 4:6

Prayer is more than a devotional habit; it is part of our theology of God. Prayer assumes that God is personal, attentive, powerful, and involved in the lives of his people. God does not need our prayers in order to know what we need, but he invites us to ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7:7). In prayer, we acknowledge our dependence upon him and receive his gifts with gratitude.

Scripture teaches that prayer should be marked by reverence, humility, repentance, faith, and confidence. We do not approach God as though he owes us whatever we request, nor do we pray as though he were unwilling or unable to help. James tells believers to ask God in faith (James 1:5–6), while John reminds us that confidence in prayer means asking “according to his will” (1 John 5:14). Faith in prayer is not confidence that God must grant our preferred outcome; it is confidence that God hears us, loves us, and will act wisely.

Prayer therefore stands between two errors. On one side is presumption, treating prayer as a way of controlling God. On the other is practical unbelief, living as though everything depends entirely upon our own plans, abilities, and resources. Christian prayer does neither. We ask boldly while submitting humbly: “Your will be done.”

Jesus repeatedly urged his disciples simply to pray and not give up. In Luke 18:1, he taught them “always to pray and not lose heart.” Persistent prayer is an act of faith. We continue praying because we believe God hears, because Christ gives us access to the Father, and because God remains faithful even when answers are delayed or different from what we expected.

Prayer is therefore not our attempt to persuade a distant God to care. It is the privilege of children coming before a Father who already knows their needs and invites them to trust him.

What does prayer reveal about our trust in God?