

Intro: Challenges with Prayer

1 John 5:15 – And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.

I. Why Do We Pray?

We pray because to pray is to be _____. We come across a situation that is _____ than me, and so we naturally bring our _____ to God's _____.

As Christians, we also pray because we are _____ by God to pray. We have a _____ to pray. Basically, we pray because we love _____ and we love _____, and prayer _____ those two things together.

II. What Difference Does Prayer Really Make?

Revelation 5:8 – Golden bowls full of incense... which are the prayers of the saints. This indicates that our prayers are _____ to God, and they are not _____.

We are _____ to ask God for good _____, and in the Bible we have so many examples of God _____ in a specific way to a specific prayer...Dallas

Willard “Our requests really do make a difference in what God does or does not do.”

Philippians 5:5-6 – 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.

God shows us His _____ through His _____.

He wants to be close to us, and _____ is how we bring God closer. Then, prayer can _____ us by providing greater _____.

Prayer makes a difference because God might want _____ to be a part of the _____ of the very thing we are praying about. God can ask us to get _____!

God often chooses to act in _____ with people. Our prayers _____ this partnership.

III. How Can I Grow in my Spiritual Practice of Prayer?

1. There are ways we can _____ prayer into what we are _____ doing.
2. In our practice of prayer, let us be _____ and persistent, for this is what the Bible asks of us. _____ the urge to cover for God or make it _____ on Him.
3. Asking “in _____ with God’s will” means asking for the very things that God _____ us to have. It is about _____ our heart with God’s heart.
4. We should be praying AND we should be _____ looking for the _____. Be watchful when we pray.

Conclusion:

Bring God _____ by bringing it to God in prayer.

Questions for Further Reflection or Discussion:

- 1) What is a Bible story about prayer that is helpful to you?
- 2) What is something that you can do to grow in your spiritual practice of prayer?
- 3) What story do you have about disappointment in prayer. Does this impact how you pray?