

WHY PRAY?

April 7, 2013 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Connecting With God Through Prayer, Part 1

MAIN IDEA: Why pray?

WHAT IS PRAYER? *Any Godward communication.* Asking. Praising. Thanking. Crying out. Emoting. Listening. Dialoging.

FROM GOD'S SIDE:

1. Prayer is the PIPELINE of relationship.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. **Revelation 3:20** ESV (1 Cor. 1:9)

2. Prayer is how He's CHOSEN to get certain things done.

You do not have because you do not ask God. **James 4:2** (2 Chr. 7:14; Jer. 33:3; James 5:16)

3. He COMMANDS us to pray because it is best for us!

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **Luke 11:9** (Jer. 29:12-13)

FROM OUR SIDE:

1. Prayer is how we ORIENT our lives around him.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33** (Mt. 6:9-13; 2 Cor. 3:18)

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **John 5:7** (Psalm 37:4)

2. Prayer is how we EXPRESS faith, trust and dependence.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing... If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **John 15:4-5, 7** ESV (James 1:5-8; Lk. 18:1-8)

3. Prayer CHANGES THINGS.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16** (Dan. 9:23; 10:12-14; Matt. 7:7-11)

4. Prayer CHANGES US.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. **2 Corinthians 3:18** ESV

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. **Matthew 11:28-30** (1 Pet. 5:7; Psalms 52; 69; 109)