

Tell God What You Need  
Inspired To Pray  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:5-8  
Key Word: Prayer  
Description: Praying for needs; anxiety;

Introduction: Two weeks ago we discussed the importance of being thankful... Before we can go on to our final topic I think it is important that we start with a heart of thankfulness. Paul will say that the key to anxiety includes to equal components prayers and petitions and thankfulness.

Story: A little boy knelt by his bed and said his bedtime prayers. "Lord, please bless mommy and daddy and Auntie, and Uncle. Lord, give us a good day today. And please give me a bicycle for CHRISTMAAAAAAAS!"

The boy's mother heard him yelling and wondered at his behavior. She walked into the room and said, "Son, son, you don't have to scream. God can hear you."

The boy looked up with big eyes and said, "Mama, I know God can hear me, but Grandma can't hear very well and she's got the money for the bike."

STOP PRAYING – He knows what you need. He's heard you. KEEP PRAYING – Prayer changes things! STOP PRAYING – I've already said it all. KEEP PRAYING – Everyone else is.

Outline: **Reasons:**

**I. Praying specifically helps me process needs and wants:** (James 4:2-3)

- A. PROCESSING—talking it out/writing it out; we need this!
- B. Know difference between prayer and supplication... (Philippians 4:6-7)
  - 1. **Prayer** is petition to a deity.
  - 2. **Supplication** is an urgent request to meet a need.
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- C. ILLUS. –

**II. Praying specifically grows my dependence and intimacy with God:** (Romans 8:26-29)

- A. **Those Over You: 1 Timothy 2:1-4**
- B. **Uncertainty with knowing WHAT to pray: Romans 8:26-29**
- C. Those who belong to Christ also have the indwelling Holy Spirit who intercedes on our behalf. Because we often don't know what or how to pray when we approach God, the Spirit intercedes and prays for us, interpreting our supplications so that, when we are overwhelmed by trials and the cares of life, He comes alongside to lend assistance with our prayers of supplication as He sustains us before the throne of grace (Romans 8:26).
- D. STEP OF FAITH- "what would you have me do"? (Mark 10:46-52)
  - 1. With the mouth (Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 11:6)
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- E. ILLUS. –

### III. Praying specifically makes me alert for more answers: (1 John 5:14-15)

- A. **1 John 5:14-15**— "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him."
1. Yes- Philippians 2:25-27
  2. No- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Prayers of OBLIGATION: "Let my will be done at all costs, Lord."
  - Prayers of SUBMISSION: "Not my will but Yours be done, Lord."
- B. HE CARES- 1 Peter 5:7
1. Pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1- )
- C. ILLUS. –

Story: A woman was in labor with her first baby and was experiencing much pain and anguish. That is natural for being in labor. The problem was that the pain wasn't producing a delivery. But this woman was having increased pain with no birth. She was experiencing increased pain with no deliverance taking place. The doctor came in to examine the situation and told the woman and her husband that the baby's head was in the wrong position. The baby's head was pointed up. Delivery of a baby is always easier with the head facing down. When the baby's head is in the wrong position, there is a lot of pain with no delivery.

May Christians today are experiencing a lot of pain but no delivery. We're not seeing a birth. We're not seeing new life. We're not seeing a change but we're in a lot of pain. Perhaps our head is in the wrong position.

Prop: Specifically talk with God about everything!

Conclusion: Our heavenly Father invites us to ask Him for everything we need. He delights to give it to us when it is within His plan. He knows we don't always understand His timing, but He expects us to trust and not doubt (James 1:5-6; Matthew 6:8). Our prayers help to align our hearts with His heart until His will is our highest goal (Luke 22:42). He promises to listen and grant the desires of our hearts when our hearts are wholly His (Psalm 37:4; 2 Chronicles 16:9).

Challenge: Stop giving God basic prayers and get more specific when you pray.

Let me tell you a story about a couple that couldn't have children naturally and they spent Thanksgiving with a family friend.. a past youth pastor and his family.. who prayed that God would give them a child by Thanksgiving next year...

Gospel: If you have never asked God for anything specific in your life, let me invite you to start with asking Him to be your personal Savior?