



WHY PRAY?



**Gateway
CHURCH**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 14: 13-16 (NKJV)

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.

OVERVIEW:

In the book of John, Jesus repeatedly taught that when we pray "in His name" our prayers would be answered. So why would we not pray? We often make the subconscious decision not to pray because of complacency, unbelief or discouragement. However, we actually have two wonderful reasons to pray: **the sovereignty and immutability of God.**



The Sovereignty of God

The Power of Prayer • Robert Morris • February 18, 2017

Sovereignty means supremacy. God's sovereignty, or supremacy, does not mean that God is going to do whatever He wants to do, no matter what. Believing that something may be God's will, or desire, does not negate the reason to pray.

God created us in His image, which means we also have a will. And, as the supreme ruler and owner of the earth, God chose to give its management to us. Unfortunately, many people in this partnership exercise their will to make choices outside of God's will. But, He wants us to partner our will with His, through prayer.

God's will is always good, therefore the good that happens in our lives is because, when we pray, our will moves God's will from heaven to earth. So, whether or not God's will and destiny for your life comes to pass is dependent upon whether or not you will partner with Him in prayer.

Scripture:

Matthew 6:3-7 (NKJV)

For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.



The Immutability of God

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The **immutability** of God means that He cannot change. God can't and won't change His character, but He will change His mind. But, His unchanging character is all the more reason to pray! God is always compassionate, forgiving, and merciful. Therefore, when we partner with Him in prayer, like Abraham and Moses did, He will relent (change His mind). He is looking for people who will join hands with Him to bring change on earth.

Scripture:

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

*For I am the Lord, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

Exodus 32:14 (NKJV)

So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Ezekiel 22:30–31(NKJV)

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

ILLUSTRATION



God Answers Prayer

To Pray Or Not To Pray • In Jesus' Name Series • Robert Morris • January 7, 2012

DISCUSS

1. In general, what is your first response when you think about prayer? Do you look forward to it, dread it, or feel something in between?
2. What do you struggle with most related to prayer: a feeling of complacency, unbelief, or discouragement? Why?
3. Have you ever seen God's sovereignty and His immutability as reasons not to pray? In which way(s)?
4. What does "the sovereignty of God" mean to you? How has your understanding of it changed?
5. Read Malachi 3:6. Why is the "unchangeableness" of God's character a reason to pray? Why should His immutability give us great confidence in prayer?

PRAYER

"Thank you, God, that You are Supreme Ruler and Lord of All. Thank You that Your character never changes—that You are always compassionate, forgiving and merciful. Please forgive me for any complacency or unbelief I am harboring in my heart. Please heal me of the discouragement and disappointment I am holding onto. I commit to partner with You in prayer to bring about Your will in my life and on the earth."

REFLECTION

What is the Holy Spirit saying to me? Talk to God and write down what He is saying to you.

LEARN MORE

To learn about Prayer, we recommend the following book:

