

When we pray and God does NOT answer our prayers the way we want, it is not because our heavenly father doesn't love us. It is because our heavenly father does love us and he has a plan that is better for us.

God answers our prayer with what is best for us, but it may not be what we asked for or what we expect.

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11 (ESV)

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13 (ESV)

The Holy Spirit is the best gift God can give us!

4. We pray because even if God doesn't answer our prayers the way we hope or expect, we know that our God is a loving Father who will only give us what is good for us and what is best for us to help us bring more glory to God.

Take Aways

- We pray because God tells us to pray.
- We pray because even though God knows everything, he carries out his plans in this world in response to the prayers of his people in this world.
- We pray because God is not a grumpy neighbor who is bothered by our small requests. God loves us. He wants us asking for all our needs.
- We pray because our God is a loving father. He answers our prayers in a way that is best for us with a timing that is right for us to help us bring more glory to God.



Luke 11: 5-13 – Why Should We Pray?

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1. Why should we pray if God already knows everything?

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Psalm 33:11 (ESV)

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)

...who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.' " Isaiah 44:28 (ESV)

...for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. Acts 4:27-28 (ESV)

1. We pray because God tells us to pray. Why would Jesus teach us how to pray the Lord's prayer if it was pointless to pray?

2. While God has everything under control, he has determined the way he will work out his plans in this world is in response to the prayers of his people in this world.

2. The Parable Of The Grumpy Neighbor

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves,... Luke 11:5 (ESV)

...for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; Luke 11:6 (ESV)

...and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? Luke 11:7 (ESV)

I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. Luke 11:8 (ESV)

What is impudence?

- Impudence means recklessness or shamelessness

The Greek word being translated is *anadeia*.

- When used in a negative sense, it means avoiding shame or recklessness.
- When used in a positive sense, it means boldness or persistence.

I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, (yet to preserve his good name) he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. Luke 11:8 (NIV alternate translation from footnote)

This is a parable of contrast, not similarity. God is NOT like a grumpy friend who doesn't want to help in the middle of the night!

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
Luke 11:9–10 (ESV)

...You do not have, because you do not ask. James 4:2 (ESV)

3. We pray because God is not inconvenienced by our prayers or too busy to answer our prayers. Our God loves us and is eager to respond to our needs.

3. The Principle Of The Loving Father

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?
Luke 11:11–12 (ESV)

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13 (ESV)

When God answers our prayers, he answers our prayers in a way that is best for us and with the timing that is right for us, so we are able to bring more glory to God.