

Why Pray Dr. John Carmichael

[Mat 6:8-9 NASB95] 8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. 9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

- Some say we do not need to pray because God is going to do what He wants to do anyway. Others do not understand that prayer is not informing Him because He already knows what we need before we ask.
- If God knows what we need, why do we need to pray?

Since God already knows what we have need of before we pray, why pray?

Here are three reasons why to pray.

I. We pray because it is commanded.

- a. Jesus commanded prayer. Here in Matthew 6. He says "when" not "if". [1Th 5:17 NASB95] 17 pray without ceasing; (Note: this is in the present imperative. It is a command.)
- b. Jesus taught prayer. [Luk 11:1-2 NASB95] 1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." 2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.
- c. Jesus is the example of prayer. He is our Lord. He is our example. We pray because Jesus prayed. [Heb 5:7 NASB95] 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

II. We pray because of spiritual protocol.

- a. There are demonic spirits that are affected when we pray.
- b. A summary of spiritual condition. In Genesis 1, God has all authority. In Genesis 2, God have authority to humans. In Genesis 3, humans gave their authority to Satan.
 - i. Consider, one of Satan's temptations of Jesus. [Luk 4:5-7 NASB95] 5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."
 - ii. Paul speaks of Satan's continued position.
 1. [2Co 4:4 NASB95] 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 2. [Eph 6:11-12 NASB95] 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]
- c. We exercise authority over the devil when we pray.
 - i. Jesus taught that having a prayer life gives your authority over the devil. [Mar 9:29 NASB95] 29 And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."
 - ii. Paul taught that in the context of spiritual warfare, we pray. [Eph 6:18 NASB95] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

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d. We pray because there are spiritual forces that need to be defeated.

III. We pray because we want change.

- a. Level 1 change: We hate our situation. We are in pain. [Psa 50:15 NASB95] 15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."
- b. Level 2 change: We hunger for more. We believe for the promise of God.
 - i. [Psa 42:1-2 NASB95] 1 For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?
 - ii. [Mar 11:24 NASB95] 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.
 - iii. [1Jo 5:14-15 NASB95] 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
- c. If we only pray at level 1, what happens when we no longer hate our situation or are no longer in pain. The reason to pray is gone.
- d. We need to learn to pray beyond level 1 (hate and pain) and move on to level 2 (hunger and promises.)
- e. God wants us not to just pray because of hate but because we hunger for more. He wants us to pray not just because we are in pain, but because we press for the promise of God.

- **We pray because we are commanded to pray as we exercise authority over Satan to experience change in our lives.**