



A Guide on Getting to Know God
Prayer Journal: Prayer Requests and Answers
Zoom #6 – December 15, 2020

Review

1. What does it mean to you to “get to know God”?
2. How does the Bible help you to “get to know God”?
3. Why is it important to begin your prayer time with praising God?
4. What is the difference in confession and dedication?
5. What is intercessory prayer?

Praying for Your Personal Needs

Never discount the importance of praying for every need in your personal life.

Matthew 10:29 – 31: Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

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

Pray that God will enable you to see your Heavenly Father in the true light of who he is, not through the prism of your experience with your earthly father.

Isaiah 30:18: Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

God will *rise up* to show you how much he loves and care for you. He is not a distant, absent father; he is present in every detail of your life.

God has unlimited capacity. You won't wear him out or weary him.

When you don't know how to pray

Sometimes we run into situations that we just don't know what to say to God.

2 Chronicles 20:12: "Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

I can promise you that there will always be times and things that are so large or so baffling to you, that you simply don't know how to pray. Use Jehoshaphat's prayer, and confess that you don't know what to do, but you're still trusting in God.

Romans 8:26: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

The Holy Spirit prays for us when we don't know how to pray.

What will keep God from listening to your prayers?

Sometimes when you're hesitant to pray about something, it could be because there's some area of disobedience on your part.

Psalm 66:17–20: I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

When you cherish sin, you are refusing to obey God. Never take lightly any area of unconfessed sin in your life, no matter how small it may be; no matter whether anyone else knows about it or not. It will prevent God from hearing—and answering—your prayers. Are you willing to take that risk?

What should you pray for?

1 Peter 5:7: Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

“All” means all—everything. We are told to cast all our cares on God, and that would include:

- Your job
- Your sole leg
- Your car which keeps breaking down
- Bills that are due
- A promotion you want
- A test you have to take
- A relationship that is driving you crazy

The list is endless. You couldn't name anything that you should not pray about.

Keeping a list of your prayer requests and when they were—or were not—answered is one good way to build your faith. Throughout scripture God teaches the people of Israel to remember, remember, remember—and this is one way you can remember.

Pray about your day

A good way to close your prayer time is by praying about the day in front of you. Turn your schedule over to God. When you know you're facing something difficult, ask for help in advance. Ask God to make you aware of divine interruptions—and make you willing to change your plans if that is his will.

Quote from A. W. Tozer's *The Knowledge of the Holy*:

Prayer is not in itself meritorious. It lays God under no obligation nor puts Him in debt to any. He hears prayer because He is good, and for no other reason. Nor is faith meritorious; it is simply confidence in the goodness of God, and the lack of it is a reflection upon God's holy character.

Concluding Thoughts on Getting to Know God

- Does God want us to have time with him even when our heart is not in it? Yes, he does. You don't walk in and out of relationships that are meaningful to you just because your feelings may be at a low point one day.

Don't let your emotions dictate your discipline! If your commitment is based on your feelings, you'll have a roller-coaster ride in that relationship.

- A structure for your time with God and in prayer is going to be very helpful—that I can promise you. But you are not obligated to it in any way. There may be days when the structure is just not necessary. Please – no guilt trips about using this or any other structure! I recommend the structure but giving yourself all the flexibility you need to let God speak to you in different ways.

- Sleep is something you may have to fight.
I think Satan uses it against us and in his book, *Handle with Prayer*, Dr. Stanley talks about how he had to overcome sleepiness, and I find that a problem too.
- A wandering mind will often interfere.
My mind just starts going, and this is the one thing I still have to work on a lot.

Mostly the thing we all need to work at is being consistent, not letting your schedule interfere with getting to know God. Getting to know God is more important than anything else you'll ever, ever do. If you believe that, then you'll put a structure in place and consistently, daily get to know him. And if you will do that, you're in for an exciting adventure.

And now the adventure is yours. My last words to you are "Go for it!" God bless you.

Recommended Books:

With Christ in the School of Prayer by Andrew Murray
The Hour that Changes the World by Dick Eastman
Handle with Prayer by Charles Stanley
Let Go by Fenelon
The Pursuit of God by A. W. Tozer
Knowing God by J. I. Packer
A Diary of Private Prayers by John Ballie (my favorite daily devotional)

