

First Friends Church
“Why Pray?”
November 2, 2008

Question: (Andrew Murray) What if the God of the universe really wanted to communicate with you? Guide you? Comfort you? Partner with you in His work on earth?

Question: Why Pray?

- Win the Lottery
- Get well
- Don't have anything to lose
- Earn spiritual brownie points
- Get out of a jam (Get out of jail free card)
- Bargain with God

Why Pray? Christians pray to spiritually connect with God, His purposes, and His people.

1. **Jesus' example**

- a. Jesus prayed publicly - taught the crowd. Matthew 6
- b. Jesus prayed privately - closest followers' requested instruction. Luke 11
- c. Jesus prayed according to OT Scriptures.

2. **Jesus taught us a *pattern* not a strict “formula.”**

Matthew 6:9-13

- a. **Relationship with God** – “*Our Father who art in heaven*” vs. 9
 - i. God is in Heaven and we are on earth – spiritual connection.
 - ii. Restored to the *Father's* heart.

- iii. Personal God vs. impersonal force.
 - iv. Relational vs. magical formula.
 - v. Connects us spiritually with other Christians – *Our Father*, give us, lead us, etc
- b. **Worship** – “*Hallowed by thy name*” vs. 9
 - i. Perspective and Position– God is Creator, we are the created (humility).
 - ii. God shaped void – created to worship.
 - c. **Will of God** – “*thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*” vs. 10
 - i. What is God's will for my life? James 1:5
 - d. **Provision** – “*Give us this day our daily bread*” vs. 11
 - i. Personal and practical needs - Mt. 6:23
 - e. **Forgiveness** – “*and forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors*” vs. 12
 - i. Receiving forgiveness – 1 Jn. 1:9
 - ii. Extending forgiveness - Mt. 6:14-15
 - f. **Deliverance** – “*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*” vs. 13
 - i. Rescue (way of escape) – 1 Cor. 10:13
 - g. **Added later** – “*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever*” (vs. 13) KJV
 - i. He is the King with all authority
 - ii. Power of God to accomplish his purposes
 - iii. Eternal vs. temporary

Why Pray? To spiritually connect with God, His purposes, and other people.

So let's pray!