

## WHAT IS PRAYER

As Christians, we all know that we are supposed to pray. The possibilities of prayer far exceed our ability to ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). But prayer tends to be difficult in the lives of so many true believers, who will admit to believing in prayer.

1. It calls for us to humble ourselves before God.
2. It calls for the confession and repentance of sin (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1, 2).
3. It calls for the believer to die to self and death always hurts.
4. It calls for the sacrifice of time.

We all know that we are supposed to pray but **do we really know what prayer is?**

1. *Prayer is an offering of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of His Spirit with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies* (Westminster Larger Catechism 178).
2. Prayer is the only activity Christians are commanded to do without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).
3. Prayer is God's appointed way to fulness of joy (John 16:24).
4. Prayer is God's appointed way to obtain forgiveness and cleansing (I John 1:9).
5. Prayer is God's appointed way to obtain victory over anxiety (Philippians 4:6, 7).
6. Prayer is the language of heaven, thinking God's thoughts after Him.
7. Prayer is recognizing the presence of God the Father, Son and Spirit in our lives.
8. Prayer, along with the reading, study and meditation of His Word is our means to know God intimately.
9. Prayer is the soul on its knees.
10. Prayer is giving God access to our needs.

11. Prayer is the very breath of spiritual life.
12. Prayer is loving God or as has been stated, "it is two people in love or like a conversation between two great friends.
13. Dr. John R. Rice said that *prayer is asking and receiving from God.*
14. Prayer is communion (fellowship) with God.
15. Prayer is laying hold of God's promises. Former Archbishop of Dublin, Richard Trench stated that "*Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, it is laying hold of God's willingness.*"
16. Prayer is doing business with God and is far more practical as any earthly transaction.
17. It is a divine privilege extended to God's children by Almighty God.
18. Prayer is the potential power of God at the disposal of every believer.
19. Prayer is talking to God as friends like to talk to each other (John 15:15). Talking to God is the most basic definition of prayer and simplest form of communication and it can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal.
20. "*Prayer is the channel through which all good flows to men. Prayer is a privilege, a sacred princely privilege. Prayer is a duty, an obligation most binding, and most imperative, which should hold us to it. But prayer is more than a privilege, more than a duty. It is the appointed condition of getting God's aid. It is the avenue through which God supplies man's wants*" (E. M. Bounds).
21. "*Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him*" (Billy Graham).
22. Prayer is the expression of relationship indicating that prayer is natural for those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives.