



PRAYER QUEST(IONS)

In our ongoing QUEST for a more effective prayer life, there are biblical answers to our QUESTIONS about prayer!

Today's Question:
How Do I Learn To Talk To God?

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Prayer is not a matter of learning a method or technique, but learning to know God better!

The Bible does not present an ART of prayer; it presents the GOD of prayer.

Edmund Clowney

God Spoke First!

Prayer is continuing a conversation God has started!

Hebrews 1:1-2, NLT

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...

2 Corinthians 4:6, MSG

It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ...

All Speech is Answering Speech!

We All Were Spoken To Before We Spoke!

Much like babies learn how to talk, we learn how to talk to God by getting our vocabulary from the Bible!

God's Word And Our Prayers

There is a direct correlation between a life saturated with Scripture and an effective prayer life!

John 14:13-14, NIV

And I will do whatever you ask IN MY NAME...You may ask me for anything IN MY NAME, and I will do it.

John 15:7-8, NIV

If you remain in me AND MY WORDS REMAIN IN YOU, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Danger of "Untethered" Prayer

If we detach the Bible from our prayer life, we will speak to the God of our making and preferences, rather than the real God!

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:9, NIV

Pray Like This!

Use the prayers found in the Bible as models and patterns for your own prayers.

- The Psalms
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Prayers of Paul

Continue the Conversation!

Talk to God about the very things he has just been saying to you in his Word.

Rightly understood, prayer is always a response to God's Word. He speaks first (through the Bible); we reply (in prayer). This being so, it is a good rule to begin our prayer time by talking back to him (whether in praise, confession, or request) on the same subject on which he has been speaking to us in our Bible reading. To do this is only polite; it is regarded as rude to change the conversation.

In practice, then, it is helpful after our reading and meditation to keep our Bible open before us and go through the passage again, verse by verse, turning it into appropriate prayer – John Stott
