





“Can We Talk?”

Biblical Reflections on Prayer



What Is Prayer?

Prayer is
dialogue between
God and me.

Psalms is the largest collection
of prayers.



Jesus and Prayer

1. Not to impress others;
2. Groups and privately;
3. Simple, not long or eloquent;
4. Persistent in prayer; God hears;
5. Don't expect immediate answers.



Early Christian *Church*

...characterized by prayer. *Amen* = “It is sure; there is no doubt.”

**Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4; Philippians 4:6;
Colossians 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:1;
Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians
5:17**



Believers Long to Hear God

“Answer me when I call
O God of my righteousness!
You have relieved me in my
distress; be gracious to me
and hear my prayer.”

Psalm 4:1



We Long to Hear God

“Consider...answer LORD my God...”

“Save O LORD...may the King answer
when we call...”

“O LORD I call upon you; hasten to me!
Give ear to voice when I call to You!”



God Promises to *Answer*

“Call on Me and I will rescue you.”

“He will call on Me and I will answer him.”

“Call to Me and I will answer you; I will tell you great and mighty things you do not know.”



God Answers Prayer

“Ask and it will be given to you...everyone who asks will receive.”

“Ask...and it will be done for you...”

“Our confidence...if we ask anything according to His will...He answers...”



God Still *Speaks!*

Through creation, man's nature,
life's circumstances, in Christ,
and in the Bible.

1 Samuel 3:9 "Speak LORD...your
servant is listening."



Hearing When We Have *NOT* Prayed

Sometimes God intervenes when
we have not called on Him.
Divine responses often come
unprompted by our prayers.

**1 Timothy 2:4; Matthew 6:32; Psalm
139:1-6**



Hearing **Before** We Have Prayed

We often quickly pray, not realizing
God may have already spoken in the
Bible!

1 Thessalonians 4:3

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Hearing *Because* We Have Prayed

1. Directly as asked;
2. Delayed, but as requested;
3. Differently than prayed about;
4. Denied altogether.



5. God's *Will* Frames Our Entire Life!

“If the Lord wills we will live and do this or that...”

“Not My will, but Your will be done.”

“...no longer live for themselves, but live for Him who died and rose again on their behalf...”