

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Why Pray If God Already Knows Everything

During a recent Q&A session with Destiny Impact (WAC's youth ministry) as part of our series on prayer, a thoughtful question came up from one of our youths:

"If God already knows everything (what we need, what we're going to say, and what will happen in the future), why should we even bother praying?"

Whether you are a teenager or have been walking with the Lord for decades, most of us would have asked ourselves this question at some point. Maybe you've wrestled with trying to reconcile God's sovereignty with our human choices, or wondered why we should spend time telling God things He already knows.

To make sense of this, we first need to re-examine what we think prayer actually is.

Too often, we treat prayer like a divine vending machine: put in a prayer request, press the button, and hope our blessing drops down. When we view prayer as purely transactional, asking an all-knowing God does feel redundant. But biblically, prayer isn't transactional. It's **relational!**

Jesus said this in **Matthew 7:11 (ESV)**:

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

(To digress a little, a silly way I've always remembered this reference is through 7-Eleven. In those convenience stores, I like how I'm surrounded by an abundance of food and drinks. Similarly, our Heavenly Father is a God of true abundance who doesn't hold back from lavishing good gifts on His children!)

John Calvin famously described prayer as “**the chief exercise of faith; and by which we daily receive God’s benefits.**”

Prayer is faith in action. God doesn’t ask us to pray so He can be updated with fresh information. He invites us to pray because He is our loving Father. Prayer is a sacred space where we **praise** Him at all times, **admit** to Him our sins, **request** what we need from Him, and **thank** Him for all things. Through prayer, we shift our reliance away from our own strength and onto Him. We also learn to recognise His voice and build our relationship with Him.

Ps Joann also added that prayer is ultimately about **alignment**.

God already knows the outcomes, but we don’t. We cannot see the bigger picture unless we draw close to Him, listen, and allow the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts. Sometimes, God answers prayers with a clear “**Yes.**” Other times, the answer is “**No.**” More often than not, it can even be a painful but gentle “**Wait.**” And best of all, His answer might be that He has **a much better plan** than anything we could have dreamed up ourselves.

Prayer doesn’t change God’s mind to fit our plans. It changes our hearts to align with His good and perfect will.

So, don’t hold back from talking to our Heavenly Father. He is waiting to hear from you! As **1 John 5:14–15 (NLT)** says:

¹⁴ And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. ¹⁵ And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

Waiting patiently in prayer with you all,

Ps Justin Chua