

Prayer Is a Love Relationship

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Introduction

1. To Pray Is To Love God

- Prayer defined

Prayer is _____ to God.

Prayer is _____ with God.

Prayer is the conversational part of a _____ with God.

Prayer is the conversational part of a _____ relationship with God.

Prayer is the conversational part of the _____ love relationship in our lives—our relationship with the _____, the _____ and the _____.

- Other definitions of prayer:
 - *“True, whole prayer is nothing but love.”* Augustine
 - *“Prayer is nothing more than an ongoing and growing love relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ... To be effective pray-ers, we need to be effective lovers.”* Richard Foster
 - *Prayer is “a richly interactive relationship ... a hand-in-hand walk with God”.* Dallas Willard
- Loving to pray is all about loving the _____ to whom we pray.
 - It is not:
 - It is:
- True prayer leads to _____ with God and spiritual transformation.

THINKING TOGETHER

If prayer is “a love relationship with God,” then a healthy prayer life will...

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2. Prayer Is What God Makes It

- Who God is _____ what prayer is.

- Mistakes about prayer are really mistakes about _____ .

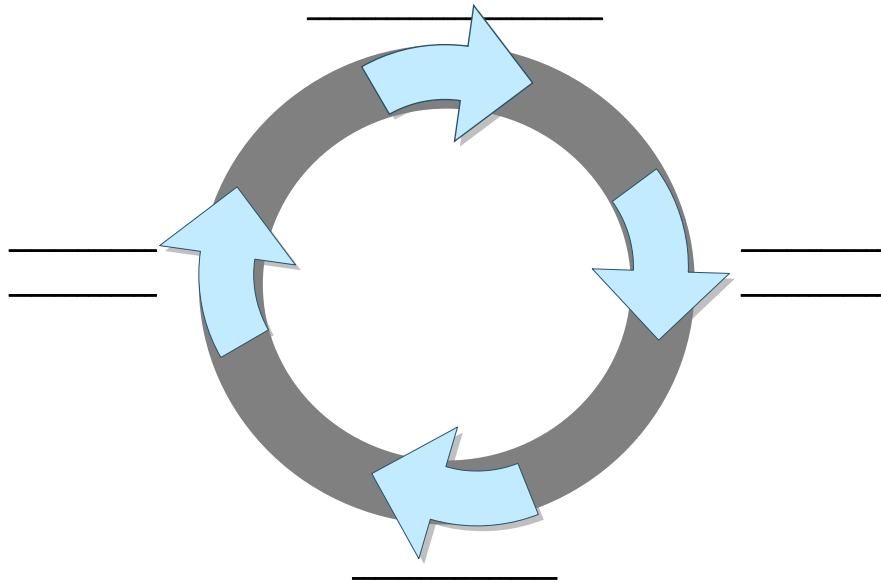
- Knowing God well allows us to pray _____ .

- We can pray to any one of the persons of the Triune God.
 - Bible pray-ers usually address the _____ .
 - Jesus invited us to pray _____.
 “You can ask me for anything in my name and I will do it.” (John 14:14)
 - The Spirit is God and is always aware of our prayers.

- All three persons of the Trinity are involved with us when we pray
 - All prayer starts with God the Father.
 - We pray “_____” (John 16:24).
 - We are commanded to pray “_____” (Eph. 6:18).

3. **Prayer can be Conceived of as a Cycle Involving the Three Persons of the Trinity and the Believer.**

The cycle of prayer



- **The Father** (12:00 o'clock position) _____ prayer (Rom. 11:36). He communicates what he wills to see done on earth.
- **The Holy Spirit** (3:00 o'clock position) _____ the Father's prayer thoughts—what he wills to see prayed and done on earth—to believers. He stirs us to pray what is important to God. He helps us in our weakness when we don't know how or what to pray (Rom. 8:26-27) by interceding in and through us.
- **The believer** (6:00 o'clock position) _____ what the Spirit conveys, yearns for what the Father wills, and is moved to pray what the Spirit has spawned within his/her heart.
- **Jesus Christ** (9:00 o'clock position) _____ (Rev. 2:23) the prayer that we are saying or feeling and _____ that on to the Father.
- **The Father** "hears" these prayers. He recognizes every prayer that starts at his throne. He gets his work done on earth through our prayers.

- The Spirit and the Son have different but complimentary roles.
 - The Spirit is our _____ prayer assistant (intercessor).
 - The Son is our _____ prayer assistant (intercessor).

THINKING TOGETHER

- Why does God choose to be actively involved in the prayers of believers?
- What difference will it make in our praying if we are always aware of the prayer role of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit when we pray?
- How will our prayers be affected if we really “hear” the Holy Spirit? What will our prayers be like if we don’t “hear” the Holy Spirit?