



## Acts 4:23-31 (NLT)

As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said.<sup>24</sup> When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—<sup>25</sup> you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans?’<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.’

<sup>27</sup> “In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed.<sup>28</sup> But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will.<sup>29</sup> And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.<sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”<sup>31</sup> After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

The Greek word for prayer is *proseuchomai*.  
It means “to give thanks, to make requests.”

## WHY DO WE PRAY?

- I. **Prayer does not \_\_\_\_\_ God,**  
**prayer \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

*The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God.<sup>8</sup> Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him.*

Matthew 6:7-8 (Msg/TEV)

*The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully devoted to him.*

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT)

*Then the Lord took Abraham outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have.”*

Genesis 15:5 (NLT)

**2. Prayer does not change God, it \_\_\_\_\_.**

Example of Abram:

- He was 75 yrs old when God first promised him a son.
- He was 99 yrs old when God repeated His promise.
- He was 100 yrs old when Isaac was born.
- God changed his name to Abraham because Abram was changed.
- “Abram” means “\_\_\_\_\_”
- “Abraham” means “The father of \_\_\_\_\_”

Example of Gideon:

- Gideon’s army = 30K men; Median’s army = 135K men
- God told him to reduce his army to 300 men!
- Gideon spent time in prayer and the Lord delivered the victory.
- Gideon was a changed man.

*I am the Lord, and I do not change.*

Malachi 3:6 (NLT)

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)

**3. Prayer does not get \_\_\_\_\_ done in heaven,  
it gets \_\_\_\_\_ done on earth.**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*  
Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:10 (KJV)

**4. We pray not because God \_\_\_\_\_, but  
because we \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Compared to the Lord all the nations are worth nothing; to him they are less than nothing.*  
Isaiah 40:17 (NCV)

*Certainly, we live, move, and exist because of him ... we are God’s children.*

Colossians 2:10 (GW)