

DEVOTIONAL

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God Invites Us to Pray

Is prayer effective? There are many Bible verses that invite us to pray and promise that God hears us. In prayer we praise and worship God. We thank him and confess our sins. And we make requests. This last use of prayer doesn't seem to make sense. If God is God and will do what he wants, do our prayers even work? Do they change anything? Why should the holy, omnipotent Creator of the universe do what a sinner like me wants him to do?

If questions like these hurt your prayer life, remember to whom you are praying: God is not only holy and omnipotent, but he is also your loving and merciful Father who wants to give you good gifts and invites you to ask for them (Matthew 7:7-11). He who gave his Son for you will give you all you need (Romans 8:32), and if you ask anything according to God's will, he hears you (1 John 5:14). You are not just a sinner. In Christ, you are holy, and can approach God's throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:16)

So is prayer effective? Search your Bible and see how many examples you can find of God answering people's prayers. There are many. And while God's will is done regardless of our asking, that God would invite us to participate in his will is a mystery of his grace. God wants to hear your thoughts. So pray, and know that, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

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Everything is possible for you. Today I ask that...(add you personal request). Yet not what I will, but what you will. Amen.

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