

# aşk

## INTRODUCTION

### Part 3 - The Work of God in Prayer

As Christians, one of the most powerful and underutilized resources we have is prayer. The New Testament writer James wrote, "You have not because you ask not."

God invites us to talk with him about everything we face in life! He is a Father who loves to give good things to his children. But often, we are like the disciples of Jesus, who said to him, "Teach us to pray." We don't know how to pray or what we should pray about.

This message series is titled, Ask. Let's explore together how amazing prayer is and how we can grow more effective in prayer.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been frustrated with God because he didn't answer a prayer request the way you hoped he would? How did you respond?
2. Read Psalm 10:1; 13:1-2 and 22:1-2. Can you relate to the author's frustration in these verses? Why do you think God sometimes seems "hard to find?" What should we do if we find ourselves in a situation similar to these psalmists?
3. Why do you think that God sometimes doesn't give us the things we ask him for?
4. Read Matthew 6:9-13. What are some things we learn about prayer from these verses?
5. Why do you think Jesus wanted us to view God as our Heavenly Father? Some people have a negative view of fatherhood. Do you think people who struggle with this should still address God as Father or would it be better to call God by another name or title? Explain your answer.
6. Do you agree that God will always answer our prayers "Yes," "Wait," or "No, I have something better?" Explain your answer. Can you think of examples in your life where God answered in each of these ways?
7. Read Mark 14:35-36. What do we learn from these verses about how we should pray? How would you describe Jesus' relationship with his father from these verses?
8. What are some things that might help us become more effective in prayer?

## APPLICATION

Name it, and claim it. Believe it, and you will receive it. It's what culture teaches us to believe about a magic formula for prayer. We can have every good intention to pray in faith, but prayer is not about a formula—it's about a relationship with God.

Prayer doesn't work; God works when we pray. The promises concerning prayer that Jesus gave us in the Gospels have to be read and applied within the larger context of everything else Jesus taught about prayer. Prayer, itself, is not what produces a result; it's the One to whom we are praying who determines the outcome.

Prayer is, in part, about coming to our Heavenly Father with our requests, believing that He is able to do anything, but recognizing that He may have a different plan in mind. In His sovereignty, God works when His people pray, and His promise to give us what we are asking for is contingent upon His will, not ours. To the degree in which we walk in step with God and remain relationally close to Him, our prayers will begin to line up with His will, on His timetable, and for His glory.

## KEY VERSES

Matthew 21:18-22	Matthew 6:9-13
Hebrews 1:11	Matthew 6:1-18
Psalm 10:1	John 15:7
Psalm 13:1-2	Mark 14:32-36
Psalm 22:1-2	