

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 3: “Prayer Works” (know portion)

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, or kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”—**1 Timothy 2:1–2**

I. What _____ does prayer make, really?

- “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”—**Matthew 7:7–8**
- “Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 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!”—**Matthew 7:9–10**

II. Why isn’t God _____ my prayer?

- “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”—**1 Corinthians 3:18**
- “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”—**Romans 11:33**
- “Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.””—**2 Corinthians 12:8–9**

III. What if I pray the _____?

- The _____ way to pray:

- Start with _____ to God (James 4:6; Prov. 1:7; Acts 2:38; Matt. 4:17; Rom. 8:15; Heb. 4:14–16).
- Be _____ (Heb. 12:28).
- Seek to pray God's _____ (Matt. 6:10; John 14:13–34; Ps. 37:4).
- Be _____ (Matt. 6:8; Phil. 4:6; James 5:16).
- Have _____ (Rom. 8:26; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- Be _____ (Luke 18:1–8; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17; Ps. 27:13–14).

- The _____ way to pray:

- Pray to the _____ (Heb. 11:6).

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 3: “Prayer Works” (do portion)

1. Have you ever felt like prayer doesn't really matter?
 - a. What made you feel that way?
 - b. If you later felt like prayer does matter, what made you change your mind?
 - c. If you haven't changed your mind, what do you think has caused others to change their mind to believing that prayer does matter?
2. How can God be unchangeable and our prayers to God also help bring about change?
3. What is the most important purpose for prayer? What makes it so important?
4. Why is it good when God doesn't answer prayers when or how you expect?
5. It can sometimes feel devastating when God doesn't respond to your prayers the way you wanted. Name three things you can do to maintain faith and joy in those times.
6. For each of the following, explain why prayer must begin with submission to the Lord:
 - a. Biblically (What does the Bible say about submission and prayer?)
 - b. Practically (From a logical standpoint, why must prayer begin with submission?)
7. Why is it important to be honest before God in prayer?

8. Considering your answer to question #3, why is it important to be persistent in prayer?

9. What can you do this week to dedicate yourself more to praying rightly?