

GOSPEL GUT CHECK: WHY GOD DOES – OR DOESN'T – GRANT OUR PRAYERS?

1 JOHN 5:13-15 (ESV)

Conflicting beliefs about prayer:

1. Some Christians emphasize that the person praying must have the right _____.
 2. Other Christians act like prayer is _____, because God has already _____ everything.
 3. A lot of Christians use prayer to try to _____ God to grant their requests.
 4. The world and our flesh think that prayer is a waste of time, in contrast to you taking _____ and _____ reality.
- I. Prayer's purpose: deep, honest _____ with a glorious God who loves to _____.
- A. Like a doting father, God wants to know our joys and concerns. It is not that He does not know already—the point is _____ and _____.
1. God's work of redemption has always been about _____ between sinners and God.
 2. Prayer is how we _____ ourselves _____ to God.
- B. Intimate prayer extends beyond our _____ and _____ to communicating all manner of personal, practical, mundane, and spiritual _____.

C. As we enjoy intimacy with God, He invites us to _____ that He (1) knows our hearts and (2) will do what is _____ in all these matters.

D. Maturity in prayer begins with the desire that _____ be done—not mine.

II. Prayer's promise: God grants every _____ aligned with His _____.

A. God intends to...

1. Spread the _____ of Jesus, so that

2. People trust Christ, bear _____, and find their _____ in Him.

B. We can believe we're praying God's will and be _____. We don't know until God _____.

C. Our requests to God should be marked by a _____ that we might not know what is _____...but God always does.

III. Confidence in prayer comes from knowing God _____ us and _____ according to His will.

A. Confident prayer begins with the _____ of a child talking to their father.

B. Confident prayer concludes with the _____ that God will respond in the way that best _____ to His will.

C. Our hope is that, as we grow to trust and love God, our _____ will become more _____ to what He wants (rather than what I want).