

PRAYER LESSON 136

God Answers People

Jesus said in Matthew 6:8, **your Father knows what you need before you ask him**. If this is true why do we bother to pray? If God already knows what we need and also knows what we are going to ask for, before we actually ask, what's the point? Is prayer just a waste of time? Why not save time and just wait and see what he decides to do about our needs?

The Bible is full of stories of people praying, so there must be some reason for doing it, maybe a reason other than asking for things. It may be that prayer is not about asking at all. Maybe the purpose of prayer is something else. Someone said that God does not answer prayer, he answers people. This may seem like splitting hairs, but I think this may give us a clue as to what prayer is really about.

Scripture is very clear that our Heavenly Father likes to hear from us. I'm not sure that what we say to him is all that important, he just likes to hear from his children. We often fail to hear God's answer to our prayers because we are focused on the answer we want, rather than on God's voice. He may be answering us instead of answering our prayers.

Because God loves us, he has our best interest in mind. His response to our prayers may take some time to effect the best result. For instance, my grandmother's prayers, that she prayed sixty years ago, are being answered today. God is not forgetful, he hears all your prayers, he knows your needs, he loves you, he will take care of you, trust him. What he really wants is a relationship with you, so talk to him, praise him and thank him, confess to him, and most of all, enjoy him.