

***Question: Jesus once said, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” If this is so, why do we need to pray? If He already knows and loves us, won’t He take care of us?***

God deals with us as a loving father with His children. Although He knows what we need before we ask, He wisely waits until we see our need for Him. Only then do we receive His gifts with loving gratitude. Only then are we prepared to use His blessings wisely and well.

For example, when my son was ten years old he set out to build a robot out of scrap lumber. Seeing the difficulty with which he sawed and nailed the boards together, I wanted to help him. But I knew that if I tried to help him too soon his independent spirit would reject my aid. It was *his* project. Finally, when he tried to make this awkward figure stand up, it fell over. In frustration he began to cry. Then, I went to his aid; and he was ready to accept my help. Although I had known from the beginning what he needed, it was best to wait until he realized his need. At that time he would appreciate my help and accept it with gratitude.

We need to understand that prayer is not so much about our appeal to God as it is our response to His loving call. Since our Heavenly Father already knows what is in our hearts, there is no reason to try to hide it from Him. Jesus taught His followers to tell the Heavenly Father “ANYTHING” (John 16:323-24). What holds us back? More importantly, He wants to hear from us. God our Father loves us and waits to respond to our needs. But we must first realize our need for Him and be ready to ask with humility. Only then can we receive His blessings with gratitude. Jesus said, “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how *much more* will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11).

Our 21<sup>st</sup> Century scientific way of reasoning says that there is nothing we can tell a God who knows everything. After all, He is busy running this universe. Why should we bother Him with our petty problems? We expect heaven’s telephone line to answer, “It’s nice to hear from you, but I need to go now. Don’t call me, I’ll call you.” But this reasoning fails to consider the loving and gracious nature of God. Instead of putting us

off, I picture him as leaning over with hand cupped to His ear awaiting our prayers. Jesus told His disciples that “all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive” (Matthew 21:22). Don’t stop praying!

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