

*If God Knows What I Need Why Should I Pray?*  
By Kent Crockett  
STUDY GUIDE

**Chapter 1—What If We’ve Been Doing It All Wrong?**

Which best describes your prayer life? (p. 3)

Read Malachi 1:8-10, 13. The Temple was designed to be the center of worship in Israel. What were the priest and worshippers doing that upset God?

What did God want someone to do to stop it and why? (Mal. 1:10).

Read Mark 11:15-17. Jesus was angry and overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple. They had not been offering defective animals like the worshippers in the book of Malachi, so why was He upset?

The Pharisees dedicated themselves to memorizing Scriptures and praying for hours every day on street corners and in the Temple. Who inspired them to pray in this way and why? (John 8:44)

Why did Jesus instruct them to pray in a closet (inner room) and shut the door? (Matthew 6:6)

In what ways can we pray wrongly? (pp. 9-10)

**Chapter 2—The Four Purposes of Prayer**

Read Matthew 6:7. What is the definition of a “meaningless repetition”?

Using the illustration of digging holes in the yard, why is it important to understand why you are doing something? (pp. 12-13)

How can prayer be compared to a passkey? (p. 15)

Read Mark 10:47-48. How do we know that Bartimaeus was desperate to receive an answer?

Read 1 Peter 5:7. What is required of us to cast our burdens to the Lord through prayer?

How do you know if you have truly let go of your problem and have given it to God? (p. 19)

**Chapter 3—Your Concept of God Determines Your Faith**

Explain the statement, “Your faith is determined by your concept of God.” (pp.21-22)

Read Mark 11:23. Why did Jesus use such a bizarre example of what faith can do?

Why did Jesus say in Mark 11:23, “Truly I say to you . . .” (p.23)

How can a mountain obey a command to be cast into the sea when it doesn’t have ears to hear?

Why didn’t Jesus demonstrate to His disciples by casting the mountain Himself? (p.24)

In the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:24-25), why did the one-talent slave bury his talent rather than using it? (p.25)

How does this apply to our concept of God? (p.26)

#### **Chapter 4—Able + Willing = Answer**

It's important to believe that God is both able and willing to answer our prayers. Which is harder for you to believe—in God's *ability* to answer your prayer or God's *willingness*?

Ephesians 3:20 tells us God is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. What does this tell us about the problem or situation that we are praying about?

What is the definition of presumption? (p.32)

Why did Satan quote Scripture to Jesus when he tempted Him? (Ps. 91:11-12)

According to James 4:3, what is one reason that our prayers are not answered? (p.34)

How can we discern God's will in the situation we are praying about?

First John 5:21 says, "Little children, guard yourselves from idols." What is the definition of an idol? (p.35)

#### **Chapter 5—Not "How" But "Who"**

We are always trying to figure out how God will answer our prayers. Why didn't Jesus explain how He cured the blind or gave hearing to the deaf? (p.37)

What does it mean to shift our attention for "how" to "who"? (Proverbs 3:5)

Even though the angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias to announce that his prayer had been answered, why didn't Zacharias believe him? (pp. 38-41)

Why do you think that Gabriel made Zacharias unable to speak for nine months?

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would give birth to a son, she asked "how" it was possible since she was a virgin. Why did Gabriel rebuke Zacharias for his unbelief, but didn't rebuke Mary and even gave her an explanation? (pp. 41-42)

Zacharias and Elizabeth had prayed for years to have a child, but God delayed the answer until they were elderly. Their son was John the Baptist, who was the greatest Old Testament prophet. What does this tell us about God's timing in answering our prayers? (p. 43)

#### **Chapter 6—"The Natural Realm Versus The Spiritual Realm"**

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen." What are two things we know about faith from this verse? (pp. 45-46)

Imagine an invisible line that separates the things we can see from the things we can't see. (2 Cor. 4:18). What are some differences between the spiritual and natural realms? (p.46-47)

What are some invisible things in the spiritual realm? (p.47)

Read Matthew 8:8-10. Why did Jesus “marvel” at the Roman centurion and say that he had greater faith than anyone in Israel? (pp.48-49)

When Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee but telling the sea to be still, what did He demonstrate about the two realms? (p.49-50)

### **Chapter 7—“The Object of Your Faith”**

What are the two things in Hebrews 11:6 that we must believe? (p.53)

How did gold prospectors “stake a claim” and how does this apply to staking a claim on God’s promises? (p.55)

Why is it important to believe that the Lord hears us when we pray? (p.55)

When the four men brought a paralyzed man hoping for Jesus to heal him, they couldn’t get near the front door because a crowd surrounded the house. What can we learn from this story about obstacles that stand in our way? (p.56)

In the illustration about jumping on the ice in a frozen lake, why is the object of our faith so important? (pp.57-58)

Read Psalm 9:9-10. What does “to put” mean? What does it mean to put your trust in God? (p.58)

### **Chapter 8—“Unclogging the Pipeline”**

Read Matthew 13:58. What prevented Jesus from doing many miracles in His hometown? (p.64)

Jesus said, “Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him” (Mark 11:25). What can help you find the grace to forgive? (pp.65-66)

When Jonah preached that God would destroy the people in Nineveh, the king got off his throne and covered himself with sackcloth. How did this move God to cancel the calamity? (p.67)

We can pray for the right thing but have wrong motives (James 4:3). Why does God want us to always ask with the right motives? (p.69)

Mistreating others can cause our prayers to be hindered (1 Peter 3:7). How does this “clog the pipeline” to God? (p.70)

### **Chapter 9—“When Will the Answer Come?”**

What can we learn about trusting God’s timing in the story about the elderly woman with the walker trying to cross the street? (p.73)

What are two common questions that we ask God when we pray? (p.74)

Read Romans 4:20-21. What does this tell us about God’s timing? (p.76)

What does “waiting on the Lord” mean? (p.76)

In Matthew 4:2-3, why did Satan wait forty days to tempt Jesus after He became hungry?

### **Chapter 10—“Knock Knock”**

In Matthew 15:22-28, why did Jesus seem to ignore the Canaanite woman who was pleading for help? (p.82)

In Luke 11:5-8, the man knocked on his friend’s door at midnight asking for bread, but his friend kept telling him to go away. What was the only reason he gave him his request and how does this demonstrate one of the purposes of prayer? (p.84)

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus told a parable about a widow who kept asking an unjust judge to give her legal protection. Jesus eliminated the two primary reasons most people would help someone. What were they? (p.88)

What was Jesus trying to teach us in this parable? (p.88)

According to Hebrews 6:12, what two things are necessary to inherit the promises? (p.89)

### **Chapter 11—“How Heaven Sees Prayer”**

When the angel appeared to the Roman centurion Cornelius, what was his message and why did Cornelius need to hear it? (p.92)

In the Old Testament, every year the high priest placed blood on the lid (the mercy seat) of the Ark of Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments. What can we learn from this object lesson? (p.93)

The altar of incense was located near the mercy seat. Why did David pray, “May my prayer be counted as incense before you”? (p.94)

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple (4 inches thick) was torn from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51). What can we learn from this? (pp.96-97)

What are two things that we receive when we come before God’s throne in prayer (Hebrews 4:16)? (p.97)

### **Chapter 12—“In Jesus’s Name Doesn’t Mean Sincerely Yours”**

“In the name of” means “by the delegated authority of.” Give some examples of this. (p.101)

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us (1 John 5:14). What must we first do before we pray? What does praying according to His will do for us? (pp.101-102)

Whenever we pray, what should be understood concerning our will and God’s will? (p.103)

If you write a check to me, what are three things necessary for me to receive the money? (pp.103-104)

According to John 16:24, what is one reason God wants to answer our prayers? (p.104)

### **Chapter 13—“God Wants to Speak to You”**

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). Since Jesus isn’t here in a physical body, how can we follow Him today? (p.106)

God can speak to us through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit, which will never contradict each other. How does the guidance differ with each? (p. 107)

When Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God, he probably thought he came up with that idea on his own. Jesus said that His Father in heaven had revealed it to him. How did His Father reveal it to him? (p.111)

God can speak through the desires in your heart. Psalm 37:4 says, “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” What does this mean, and what does it not mean? (p.114)

In Acts 15:22-28, how did the apostles and elders know God’s will? (p.115)

### **Chapter 14—“Why Prayers Aren’t Answered Like You Asked”**

Romans 8:26 says, “We don’t know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us.” What does this mean and how does this affect the answer to our prayers? (pp.119-120)

The apostle Paul asked God three times to remove his “thorn in the flesh.” How did God answer his prayer in a different way than he asked? (p.121)

Since God knows the future and can see the outcome of every possible decision, why will He sometimes deny what we ask? (p.122)

The people at Mary’s house had prayed for Peter’s release from jail, but they didn’t believe it when he showed up at the door. What is the lesson we learn from this? (p.124)

Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever.” What are the secret things and what does this tell us about unanswered prayers? (p.125)

### **Chapter 15—“If I Pray for Wisdom, How Do I Know When I Get It?”**

James 1:5 says, “If anyone lacks wisdom let him ask of God.” What can we learn from this verse and what is the definition of wisdom? (p.130)

Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” What does it mean to have a teachable spirit? (p.131)

James 1:6-7 talks about asking and receiving from the Lord. How does the illustration about the local radio station sending out broadcasting signals demonstrate this truth? (p.132)

When you pray for wisdom and an idea pops into your mind, how might this indicate that God has given you wisdom? (p.133)

Psalm 1:1 says, “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.” What does this tell us about whom we should listen to? (p.134)

### **Chapter 16—“Why Does God Want Me to Pray for My Enemies?”**

Jesus told us to pray for those who mistreat us and who persecute us, but He didn't tell us exactly *what* we are to pray. Instead of praying for God to punish them or bless them no matter how evil they behave, what is a better option? (p.139)

Zacchaeus was a crooked tax collector who had cheated many people, but after he met Jesus he was convicted of his wrongdoing. How do we know that he truly had a change of heart? (p.141)

Jesus said, “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven” (Matt. 18:18). What happens in the spiritual realm when we forgive and pray for those who have hurt us? (p.145)

If your enemy's world starts falling apart as a way to bring him to repentance, be careful not to be happy about it. What does Proverbs 24:17-18 tell us about this? (p.146)

Suppose your enemy never repents or apologizes. What does Romans 12:19 tell us that God will do?

### **Chapter 17—“If More People Pray is it More Likely to be Answered?”**

According to James 5:16-18, what are two clues that the person who prays will get an answer? (pp.149-150)

### **Chapter 18—“If I Pray Without Ceasing, When Do I Sleep?”**

Why did Jesus say in Matthew 6:6 to go into your inner room to pray? (p.154)

Many people aren't thankful because they're blind to all the blessings they have. What are two things that can prompt us to give thanks to God? (p.157)

What are some of the items mentioned on pages 157-161 that you've overlooked and never really thanked God for?

### **Chapter 19—“How Are We to Pray in Restaurants?”**

Do you feel obligated to bow your head and pray out loud in a restaurant because you feel that God expects you to pray this way?

Do you believe it is okay to pray silently with your eyes open, or to just look at your meal and say, “Thank you, God!”?

### **Chapter 20—“Praying to be Saved”**

Considering the true story about the woman who fell overboard into the Atlantic Ocean, do you feel like it's necessary to be as desperate as the woman when you call out to be saved from your sins? (pp.171-172)

Romans 10:13 says, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” What are some things we can learn from this verse?

**Chapter 21—“Praying for God’s Provision”**

Jesus said that your heavenly Father feeds the birds (Matt. 6:26). He doesn’t drop worms in their mouths, so how does He feed them? (p.181) How does this apply to us?

When Elijah needed food during a drought, what were two ways God provided for him? (p.182, 184). What can we learn from this?

**Chapter 22—“Praying for Protection”**

When Ezra was leading a group of returning exiles through a dangerous area, he prayed for God’s protection. After they arrived safely in Jerusalem, what did Ezra say about how God protected them? (pp. 188-189)

**Chapter 23—“Praying to Get Through Devastation”**

Why is it important to not blame God for accidents, disasters, and the actions of evil people? (p.196)

**Chapter 24—“Praying for Healing”**

Jesus once laid His hands on a blind man, who gained his sight but with blurred vision. He laid His hands on him again and he saw clearly. Jesus didn’t do this because He lacked the power to heal, so why did He do it? (p.208)

**Chapter 25—“Praying for Others”**

When the Lord struck Miriam with leprosy for speaking against Moses, Aaron asked Moses to intercede for her, which he did. When we intercede for others what must we lay aside? (p.212)

Why does God tell us to pray for all who are in authority over us? (p.217)

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