

Point 1. Why We Pray

a.) God inclines (is attentive) towards us: v6, 9, 11

Psalm 10:17

[17] O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will **incline** your ear

Psalm 17:6

[6] I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; **incline** your ear to me; hear my words.

Psalm 40:1

[1] I waited patiently for the LORD; he **inclined** to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 86:1

[1] **Incline** your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Isaiah 37:17

[17] **Incline** your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

Daniel 9:18

[18] O my God, **incline** your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

b.) God moves when we pray v9

c.) God Answers v11

Point 2. How to Pray

a.) Praise God - Pray his Attributes

Exodus 34:6-7

“The Lord, the Lord, a God *merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7* keeping steadfast love for thousands, *forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin*

Ps 103:19

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and *his kingdom rules over all.*

Heb 2:8

putting *everything* in subjection under his feet.”
Now in putting *everything* in subjection to him, he left *nothing* outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

Eph 1:11

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who *works all things* according to the counsel of his will

Jer 32:17

¹⁷ ‘Ah, Lord God! It is you who have *made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing* is too hard for you.

Ps 95:3

For the Lord is a *great God, and a great King* above all gods.

1 Chron 16:34

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for *he is good*; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Handout A Posture of Powerful Prayer Nehemiah 1:4-11.

Ps 36:5

Your *steadfast love*, O Lord, extends to the heavens, *your faithfulness* to the clouds.

Dan 9:4

O Lord, the *great and awesome God*, who keeps covenant and *steadfast love* with those who love him and keep his commandments

2 Thes 3:5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the **love** of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

d). Make your requests known to God

Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known to God**.

Luke 18:1-8 (story of the persistent widow) And there was a widow in that city **who kept coming** to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary'...

Mt 7:7 "**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you.

b). Confess your sin

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 38:18 I **confess** my iniquity; I am sorry for my **sin**.

c). Repent of your sin

Mark 1:15 Jesus said , "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;^[a] repent and believe in the gospel."

Acts 3:19 **Repent** therefore, and turn back, that your **sins** may be blotted out.