

*Lesson 9*  
*Understanding Prayer*

**I. What Prayer IS NOT – Matthew 6:5-8**

**A. It is not ‘How long you pray’**

1. Hypocrites love to pray
2. Praying for the approval of men
3. Praying out of obligation or duty to earn the favour of God
4. It is a heart issue (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

**B. It is not what you do, to get God to do, what you “need” Him to do  
– Luke 11:1-13; Luke 18:1-8**

1. Wrong teaching says that you have to pray until you can make God do what you want Him to
2. A friend would not be so rude as to refuse you
3. God doesn’t make us beg
4. This parable is a contrast (Luke 18:1-8)
5. God will answer speedily. Mark 11:24; Dan. 9:20-23; Dan. 10:2-3, 10-13
6. Our faith shouldn’t be used only to get our needs met

## II. What Prayer IS

### A. Relationship with God! This is the primary purpose in prayer! – Luke 10:38-42

1. Knowing God and Jesus Christ – John 17:3; Mark 3:13-15;  
Rev. 4:11 KJV
2. We minister unto the Lord when we choose to spend time with  
Him by loving on Him and allowing Him to love on us. Acts 13
3. Praying one hour a day in your “prayer closet” is not necessarily  
a good relationship with God
4. Prayer is communion with God out of relationship with God
5. We need to always be in the presence of God; being in the  
presence of God is a choice not a feeling - Acts 9:10
6. Prayer shouldn't come from religious duty – vain repetitions.  
Listening is a major part of prayer. - Ex. 3:2-4; 1 Sam. 3:10
7. Relationship with God will change our heart's desires to equal  
God's desires. Ps. 37:4; John 14:12-14; John 15:7;  
1 John 5:14-15

### B. New Testament Prayer (Faith) enforces what Jesus has already provided on the cross (Grace).

1. Enables God to do what He wants to do – appropriates the  
Gospel – Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That  
prayer is to remind us of what God wants to do, not us  
reminding God of what He needs to do.
2. When you pray for labourers to be sent into the harvest, put your  
packs on. You just qualified to be one of those labourers.  
Mt. 9:35-38; 10:1