



Assumptions in Prayer

Assumptions We Make When We Pray:

- ▶ God lives (exists)
- ▶ "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands."
- ▶ Acts 17:24

Assumptions We Make When We Pray:

- ▶ God lives (exists)
- ▶ God hears us
- ▶ “And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.”
- ▶ 1 Kings 18:27

Assumptions We Make When We Pray:

God lives
(exists)

God hears us

God cares
about us

“Cast all your
anxiety on him
because he
cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7

Assumptions We Make When We Pray:

- ▶ God can do something
- ▶ "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." (Daniel 3:16 – 18)

Assumptions We Make When We Pray:

- ▶ God is willing to change His mind
- ▶ Genesis 19: Abraham pleads
For Lot and Sodom
- ▶ "Therefore do not pray for this
people, nor lift up a cry or prayer
for them, nor make intercession to
Me; for I will not hear you." (Jer.
7:16)

Assumptions
We Make
When We
Pray:

God is willing to change His
mind

Jer. 15:1 Then the LORD said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from my presence! Let them go!"

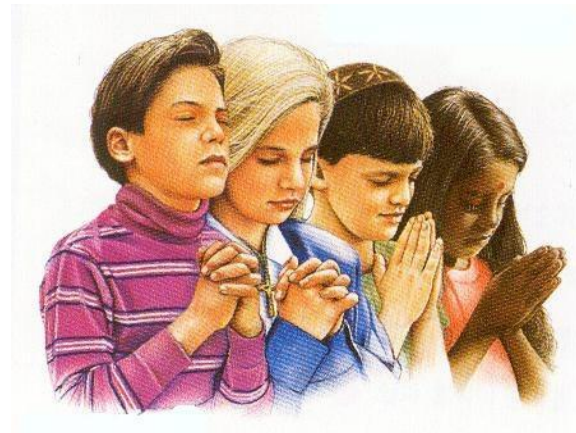
A photograph of two men, one Black and one white, sitting together with their hands clasped in prayer. The Black man is on the left, looking down with a serious expression. The white man is on the right, also looking down. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

Assumptions We Make When We Pray:

- ▶ God lives (exists)
- ▶ God hears us
- ▶ God cares about us
- ▶ God is able to deliver us
- ▶ God is willing to change His mind

Who Should Pray?

- ▶ Everyone who fears God.
- ▶ Should those, not in Christ, pray?
 - ▶ Psalm 34:12 - 16



Who Should Pray?

- ▶ Everyone who fears God.
- ▶ “For He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:10 - 12

Who Should Pray?

- ▶ Everyone who fears God.
- ▶ “He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.” Proverbs 28:9
- ▶ John 9:31 Jewish people say, "Now we know that God does not hear sinners;"

Who Should Pray?

- ▶ Everyone who fears God.
- ▶ "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God..."
- ▶ "and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.'"
- ▶ Acts 10:4, 31; Acts 11:14

Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

- ▶ Offered in faith
 - ▶ “But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.” (James 1:6 - 7)

Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

- ▶ In a spirit of obedience (1 Peter 3:10 – 12)
- ▶ Reverence and Humility (Luke 18:9 - 14)
- ▶ Willingness to Forgive and Love
- ▶ “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”
- ▶ (Matthew 6:14 – 15)

Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

- ▶ Must be offered through Christ as a mediator (1 Tim. 2:1 -5)
- ▶ “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” (1 John 2:1)
- ▶ (Gk. Paraclete – called alongside to help)

Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

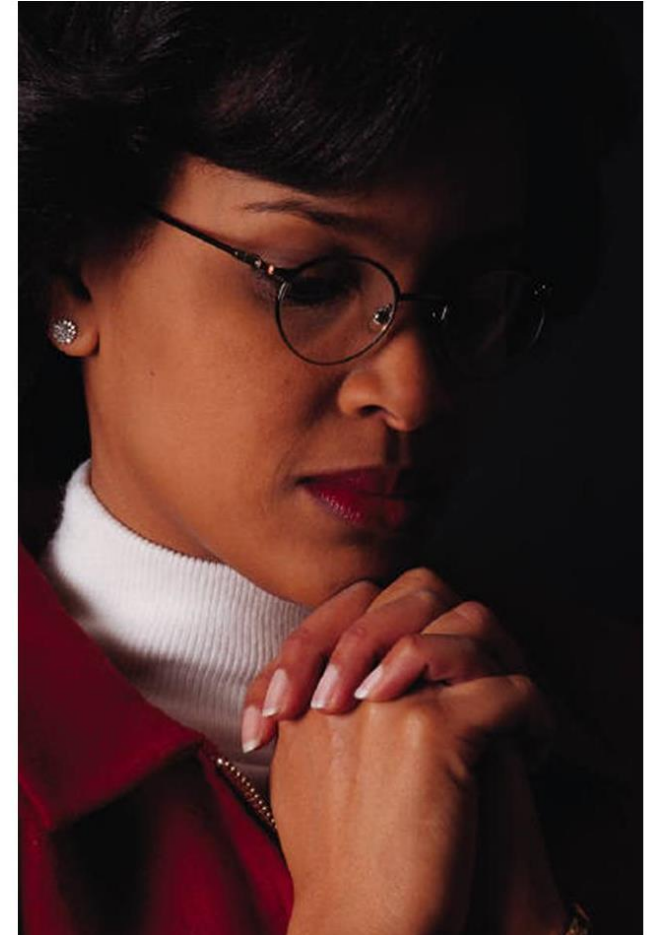
- ▶ Must be offered through Christ as a mediator (1 Tim. 2:1 -5)
- ▶ “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.”
- ▶ Hebrews 4:15 - 16

Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

- ▶ Must be according to His will.
- ▶ “And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
- ▶ (1 John 5:14)

Posture When We Pray

- ▶ Bowed head
- ▶ Standing and praying (Luke 18:10)
- ▶ Kneeling (Luke 22:41)
- ▶ Lifting hands (1 Tim. 2:8)



“I am praying for you.”

- ▶ “I have a Savior, He’s pleading in glory, A dear loving Savior tho’ earth friends be few;
- ▶ And now He is watching in tenderness o’er me, But O, that my Savior were your savior too!”



“I am praying
for you.”

- ▶ Friends and loved ones have been praying for you.
- ▶ But for their prayer to be answered you must humble yourself before God.

