

PRAAYER: WHAT IS IT?

That there is much confusion today about prayer is illustrated by the titles of books on the subject, many of which are written by evangelicals. Here are just a few: *Prayer, Talking to God*; *Prayer: How to Get Things from God*, and *Prayer: Asking and Receiving*. In this session, we want to clarify *prayer* by defining it and communicating 6 New Testament principles on the subject.

7 Words for Prayer in the New Testament Help Us Define It John 14:13-16; Phil. 4:6; Rom. 8:26,27, etc.

1. “ask,” “beg,” “desire” (αἰτέω / aiteo) : ____ times (verb) in the N.T.
2. “pray,” “ask,” “beseech” (ἑρωτάω / erotao): ____ times (verb) in N.T.
3. “pray,” “make prayer,” (προσευχομαι / proseuchomai): ____ times (verb) in the N.T.
4. “pray,” “beseech,” “request” (δέομαι / deomai): _____ times (verb) in the N.T.
5. “make intercession” (“to supplicate”) (ἐντυγχάνω / entugchano): ____ times (verb) in the N.T.
6. “pray,” “entreat,” “beseech” (παρακαλέω / parakaleo): _____ times (verb) in N.T.
7. “supplications” (ἰκετήρια / iketeria): ____ time in the N. T. (Heb. 5:7)

Add these up and prayer = _____ or _____ .

6 N. T. Principles on Prayer

I. Prayer is _____ specifically: it is expressing a felt need to God, our heavenly Father.

Options of God in Answering

Perceived Need (Felt)	Real Need
Yes	No
Yes	Yes
No	Yes
No	No

Prayer #2: The Ultimate in Wireless Communication

II. Prayer is a divinely designed system of _____: we communicate our requests: God communicates through Christ _____ and / or _____. Heb. 4:15,16

III. Prayer is a _____ provision for success for the believer in Phase 2 Christianity.

IV. Prayer is therefore _____: it is an _____, not in overcoming God's reluctance, but in entering more fully into His will. Rom. 8:26,27

V. Prayer is not a _____ - _____: it is an expression of a felt need for God's assistance to fulfill His will for our lives.

VI. Prayer is an expression of _____ in God and in His capabilities.

HE IS ABLE ...

- ...to perform what He promised, Rom. 4:21
- ...to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, Eph. 3:20
- ...to keep you from falling, Jude :24
- ...to subdue all things unto Himself, Phil. 3:20
- ...to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them, Heb. 7:25

THESE PRINCIPLES ARE ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT THE PRAYERS RECORDED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.