

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

(part 1 of: “*Prayer Questions, 101*”)

**Hebrews 4:16**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

(Prayer: it offers us ...)

## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

**“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”**

**(Hebrew 4:16)**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

**“In Him (Christ), and through Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”**

**(Ephesians 3:12)**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

(Prayer: it offers us ...)

## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**Why pray?**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**How does prayer work?**

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

Is there one *form* of prayer that is more effective than another?

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**Why does prayer rank so high in surveys of theoretical importance, but so low on surveys of actual satisfaction?**

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**


**Why doesn’t God seem to be listening when *I* prayer?**

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**If God knows everything  
anyway, why inform God of  
things He already knows  
about?**



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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**Are we supposed to pray in the name of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit? Does it matter?**

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**How am I supposed to pray  
when I don’t know how?**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**


**Is it wrong or selfish to  
pray for myself, not just  
for others?**

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

Where does the *power* of  
prayer come from when I  
pray?




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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**When I pray with weak  
faith, will God still hear me?**




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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**Does God hear the prayers  
of everyone?**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**Is God obligated to answer prayers according to how we want them answered?**

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**Does prayer change God in  
any way?**

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**

**How do we reconcile a  
changeless God described  
in the Bible with the  
responsive God described  
in the Bible?**

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## ◆ **CONFIDENCE & CONFUSION**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

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## ◆ COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY

Why does it *seem* as if God lets the world go on as it does and not intervene when people pray for it?

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## ◆ COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY


Does prayer *really* help  
when it comes to healing  
the sick?

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## ◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**

**Why does God seem  
close at times but also  
far away at other times  
when I pray?**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY

Why do I sometimes feel  
more *defeated* in prayer  
rather than  
*confident/victorious*?

# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**


**Does God concern  
Himself at all to the  
point of intervening in  
our daily lives when we  
pray?**

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## ◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**

**Does God run the world  
dependent upon our  
prayers?**



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## ◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**

**Do we dare ask God for certain things in prayer (i.e. success, happiness, security, peace)?**

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## ◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**

**What is the point of praying for something to happen when God already knows what’s going to happen?**

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## ◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**

**How do I pray with faith  
when it seems that the  
kind of prayer I am lifting  
up rarely gets answered?**

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◆ **COMFORT & UNCERTAINTY**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**



# “Approaching God’s Throne”

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Did Jesus understand both the potential and limitations of prayer?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Why did Jesus have to pray to His Heavenly Father at all?**



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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Am I just bothering God with petty requests when I pray, or should I simply let Him get on with the business of running the universe while I do my best to take care of things down here?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Does prayer have any real impact in the world or is it merely a private conversation with God?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Does prayer make a difference in  
world events?**



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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**What difference does one puny prayer make against the inevitability of fate or providence?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Is the fulfillment of God’s will take longer or the advancement of the kingdom goes slower because we don’t pray?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**


**Is there a more effective body language of prayer? Should I kneel? Be formal or casual? Keep my eyes closed?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Is there anything that makes our  
prayer deficient?**

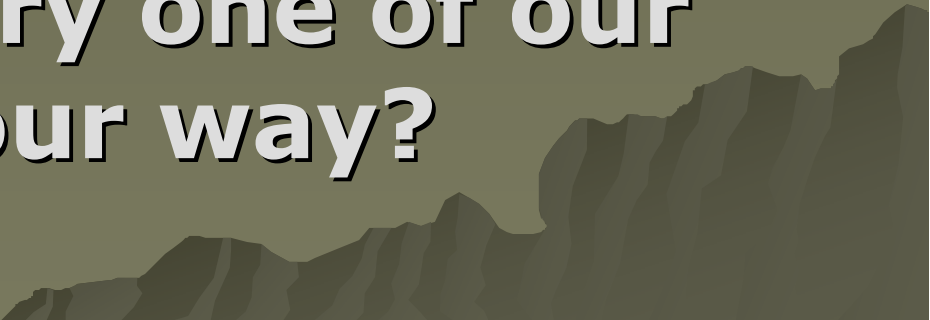


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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**What would happen if God answered every one of our prayers our way?**

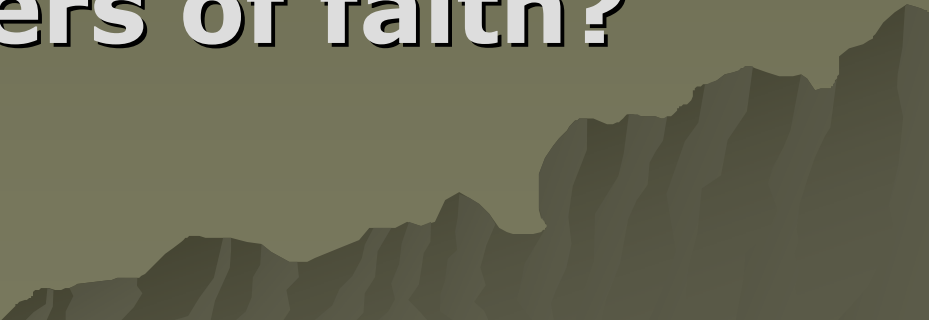


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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Does God overrule nature to  
answer prayers of faith?**



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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**Do those prayers shared through email operate like a pyramid scheme? The more prayers prayed the better?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**If 2 million pray for the Steelers to win, and 1 million for the Browns to win, does God take this into consideration?**

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## ◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**

**If a farmer with dry fields prays for rain, and a church holding a ‘Community Day’ prays for dry weather, how does God handle these prayers?**

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◆ **CONTACT & INCOMPREHENSION**



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**CONFIDENCE**

**COMFORT**

**CONTACT**

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