

GOD CARES HOW WE PRAY

Possibly the most ancient and common way that man has worshipped God is by prayer. Prayer reminds us who has given what we have and who to ask for what we need (James 1:17; Matt. 7:11). Unthankful people often think they are taking care of themselves and need no one's help. This is the first of many lies they believe (Rom. 1:21-25). By teaching us to pray, God is looking out for our own good.

God permits His people to offer requests to Him (Philip. 4:6). God gave us no permission to pray to nature, ancestors, Mary, or dead saints—these are lawless acts (Matt. 7:23).

God does not accept all prayers. Only a faithful Christian can pray with confidence that his prayers are accepted (1 Pet. 3:12; Heb. 4:16). Doubt, hypocrisy, neglect in marriage, or any form of unrighteousness will make your prayers void (Jam. 1:6-7; Lk. 18:9ff; 1 Pet. 3:7, 12).

We also must be active in what we ask from God. If we ask for food but refuse to work, God will not accept our request. If we pray for salvation but do not leave sin, will not confess Jesus, or have not accepted the Lord's baptism, God will not accept our request. God cares how we pray. (David Halbrook)