

## Pagan vs. Biblical Prayers

*Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks – this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

### 1) Pagan Prayers

- a. Shopping God
- b. Courting Fate
- c. Moral Self-Talk
- d. Mystical Escapes

### 2) True Biblical Prayer

- a. To Whom We Pray
  - 1. Powerful

Romans 8:31, 38-39

- 2. Wise

Rom 8:28

- 3. Loving

#### **Because He is personal...**

He is not an impersonal force.

#### **Because He is Father...**

We don’t look up to Fate, we look up to Father.

Rom 8:15 – we have received a spirit of Adoption as sons by which we cry out Abba, Father!

Gal 4:6 – God has sent for the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, by which we cry out Abba Father.

Matt 6:9 – Pray then in this way: “Our Father...”

And like human fathers only try to approximate,

#### **He is willing...**

#### **He is gracious...**

#### **He is merciful...**

#### **He is good...**

## b. How we Pray

### 1. Devoted Worship

We come first and foremost to honor – not primarily to receive...

### 2. Honest Help-Seeking

*Cast you cares upon the Lord, for He cares for You.*

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...*

*When you pray – say:  
Our Father, who is in heaven...  
Hallowed be Your name...*

## Praxis

1. What makes regular prayers a hard habit for you to maintain?
2. Consider prayers in the Bible where God answered in accord with the asking. Consider where He didn't. What things might this be intended to teach us?
3. Which type of Greek prayer are you prone to most? Why?
4. Why is WHO we perceive ourselves praying to determinative in HOW we pray?
5. What happens when we put "honest help-seeking" above "devoted worship" in our purpose for prayer? Practically how can we reorient that?
6. Objection: "If God's sovereign plan will occur, why pray?" How do today's points about prayer answer that?