

Why Pray?

“And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD” – Gen.4:26

“And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him” – Gen.5:24

# I. If God Already Knows What Will Happen...Why Pray?

# Influence of predestination theories

- 'God preordained everything that happens'
- 'We have no choice'
  1. Josh.24:15, Israel [Lk.14:7; Ac.6:5]
  2. 1 Sm.23:1-13, David
  3. 2 K.20:1-7, Hezekiah
  4. Jonah 3:4

# Common misunderstandings

1. 'God is unchangeable, thus prayer has no effect.'
  - What passage says so? 1 Pt.3:12.
  - God said He would answer; since He is unchangeable, He does. Ja.5:16

## Common misunderstandings

2. 'God is omniscient; already knows our needs; why ask?'

- What about marriage?
- 1 Th.5:17 . . . Ps.139:2 –
  - Long before – time or space
  - Includes unexpressed thoughts, 4
- 1 Tim.2:1, giving thanks
  - He already knows we are thankful . . .

## Common misunderstandings

3. 'God answers prayers only through miracles; they have ceased . . .'

- Mt.7:9-11
- Ro.15:30-32
- Ja.5:17-18 (1 K.18:44)

## James 5

**16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

**17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

**18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.



I. If God Already Knows What Will  
Happen...Why Pray?

II. Why Pray For God's  
Will To Be Done?

## Suppose we don't know why?

- Mt.6:10 ...
  - 32 – He knows our needs
  - 33 – 'seek' includes prayer
- Mt.7:7, ask ... seek ... knock
  - Present tense: **keep on asking...**
    - 'If He heard me the first time, why continue?'

## Suppose we don't know why?

- Mt.6:10 ... 32 – He knows our needs
- Mt.7:7, ask ... seek ... knock
- Mt.8:1-4
  - We don't know His will in any given situation. He may say . . .

Yes

No

Later

Better

- Mt.26:39

## Suppose we don't know why?

- Bible still teaches us to pray.
- Mt.6:10 ... 32 – He knows our needs
- Mt.7:7, ask ... seek ... knock
- Mt.8:1-4, we don't know . . .
- 2 Co.12:7-10, God has reasons . . .
- 1 Jn.5:14, God knows best

## Suppose we don't know why?

1 Jn.5:14, God knows best

- Ja.4:1-3
  - We may ask for good thing with wrong motive
  - We may ask for wrong thing with good motive
- Ro.10:1
  - We know this request is God's will, but He will not override 'choice'
  - Lk.15 . . . Ps.106:15

I. If God Already Knows What Will  
Happen...Why Pray?

II. Why Pray For God's Will To Be Done?

III. Why Ask For Something?  
God Knows What We Want.

## Lk.18:9-14

- God knew his sins, his heart, but he had to ask for forgiveness.
- Asking is not only right, but a condition of salvation of God's people.
  - Ps.51 [2 Sm.12:13]; Ac.8

## Lk.22:46

- Just as important in preventing sin (31-34)

## Isa.62:6-7

<sup>6</sup> “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, <sup>7</sup> And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

- **Watchmen** look for good news (52:7-8)



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- **Watchmen** look for good news (52:7-8)
- Who make mention... Lit., *the Lord's remembrancers* [remind the Lord].
  - 36:3, recorder: 'one who reminds'

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- **Watchmen** look for good news (52:7-8)
- Who make mention...
- **Give Him no rest** (7).
  - ‘Wear Him out’ with prayers...