

A silhouette of a man and a child standing on a hill, looking at a large, bright sun in a sky filled with birds. The scene is set against a warm, orange and yellow background, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center, with several birds flying around it. The man and child are standing on a dark, silhouetted hill in the foreground, looking towards the sun. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

When...

*What praying does*

Matthew 6.5-7,9 (NIV11)

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

“This, then, is how you should pray:  
“ ‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

Luke 11:1-2 (NIV11)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: “ ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

# What our praying does for God

He likes our company

Exodus 33.11 (NIV11)

The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

“God loves everyone as if there was no one else to love.” St Augustine

Psalm 46.1 (NIV11)

God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

We please him by our faith

Hebrews 11.6 (NIV11)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

# What our praying does for others

2Corinthians 1.10-11 (NIV11)

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Hebrews 7.25 (NIV11)

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Romans 8.34 (NIV11)

Who then is the one who condemns?

No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8.26-27 (NIV11)

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

And he who searches our hearts  
knows the mind of the Spirit, because  
the Spirit intercedes for God's people  
in accordance with the will of God.

Luke 18.1 (NIV11)

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Acts 12.5 (NIV11)

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

“God does nothing, but in answer  
to prayer.” John Wesley

# What our praying does for ourselves

Jeremiah 33.3 (NIV11)

‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

Luke 1.37 (NirV)

“Nothing is impossible with God.”

Jeremiah 32.27 (NIV11)

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

Psalm 84.11 (NIV11)

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favour and honour;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.

Exodus 22.13 (NIV11)

“If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you.”