



**Keeping a Proper Perspective as we Pray**

*NorthRidge Church*

*Dr. M. David Myers*

October 14, 2018

**Truth for Life**

For the week of October 14, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? Psalm 8 (vs. 3-4)*

Psalm 8 explores the theme of God's majestic splendor and our puny insignificance by way of comparison. And yet at the same time, God has created us in His image and graciously crowned us with glory and majesty. He has assigned us the role of ruling over His creation. All of these thoughts should lead us as we consider the matter of prayer with a God who desires to be in relationship with us, and wants more for us than we want for ourselves.

**Prayer Principles that Keep Perspective ...**

- 1) Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 1-2
  
- 2) Prayer is Best Done \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 3-4
  
- 3) Prayer is Accepting our \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 5-8
  
- 4) Prayer Works because of \_\_\_\_\_ – vs. 1 & 9

**Closing Thoughts ...**

It's \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ or It's \_\_\_\_\_

Even if we fail in keeping a proper perspective, \_\_\_\_\_!

1. Think back about either your childhood or maybe consider your own parenting. What did you do or your children do to you in order to get a request granted? Did you have a specific parent you would ask? A way to approach them? A special gesture? Was this tool developed over time?

How effective were you or your children at getting the request granted? What percentage of the time?

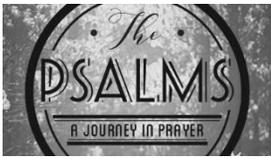
Would you agree or disagree that this tool was a tool of manipulation? Why or why not?

2. Read through the following verses. Can you discern a common thread throughout?

Romans 12:2	1 Corinthians 5:17	2 Corinthians 3:18
Galatians 2:20	Romans 5:1-8	Psalm 51:10-12
Philippians 1:6	Colossians 3:10	Psalm 139:23-24

From the verses above ... What is God seeking to do? Why is He seeking to do it? How does prayer fit into what God is seeking to do?

3. Think back upon your prayers this week. What percentage of your prayer time was simply Worship? What percentage was requests? What percentage was listening for His voice?
4. Consider the Closing Thoughts from Sunday. Which of these catch your attention? Why? How is God desiring to use that in your life?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - a. Is it futile or potentially useful to debate an atheist about the existence of God? Is the atheist's problem intellectual or moral?
  - b. Should Christians be at the forefront of the environmental movement? Where is the biblical balance?
  - c. How do you counsel someone who has given up on God because their prayers were not answered? Use Scriptural support as you are able.



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### Prayer Principles that Keep Perspective ...

- 1) Prayer is **Rooted in Worship** – vs. 1-2
- 2) Prayer is Best Done **in Humility** – vs. 3-4
- 3) Prayer is Accepting our **Rightful Position** – vs. 5-8
- 4) Prayer Works because of **Who He Is** – vs. 1 & 9

### Closing Thoughts ...

It's **Not about You**

Prayer is **Worship** or It's **Empty**

Even if we fail in keeping a proper perspective, **Pray!**

## Truth for Life

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How effective were you or your children at getting the request granted? What percentage of the time?

Would you agree or disagree that this tool was a tool of manipulation? Why or why not?

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