





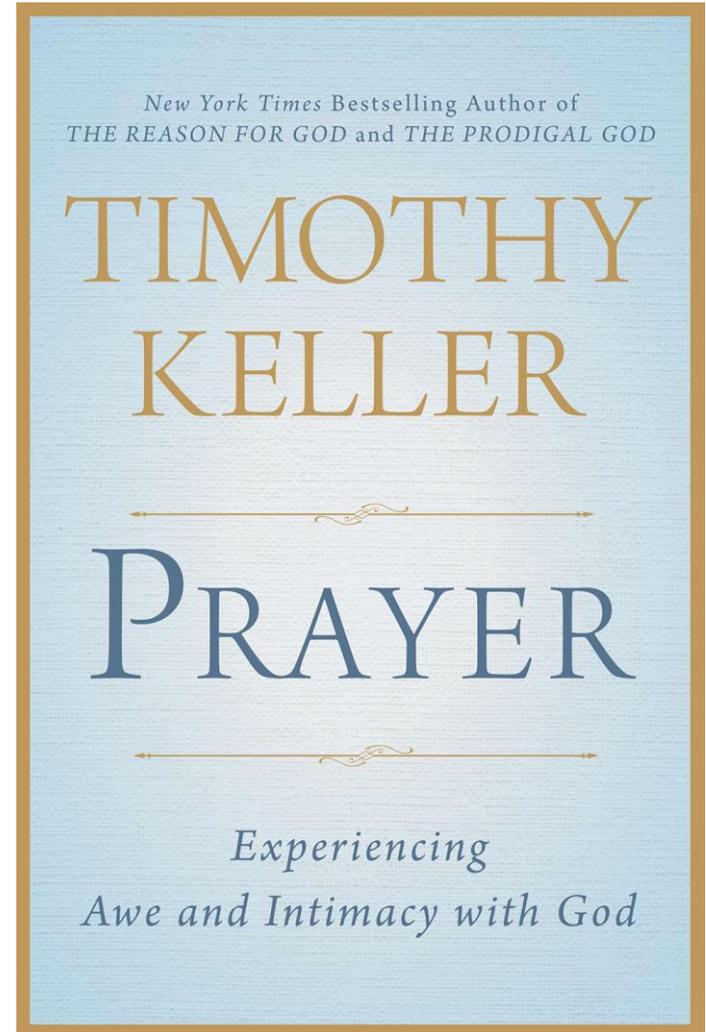
PRAY

Prayer is ongoing communication with our Heavenly Father, connecting in relationship with him and seeking his Kingdom on earth.

- 1. What is prayer?**
- 2. How is God active?**
- 3. Why do we pray?**
- 4. How do we pray?**

PRAY

Why do we pray?







Why do we pray?

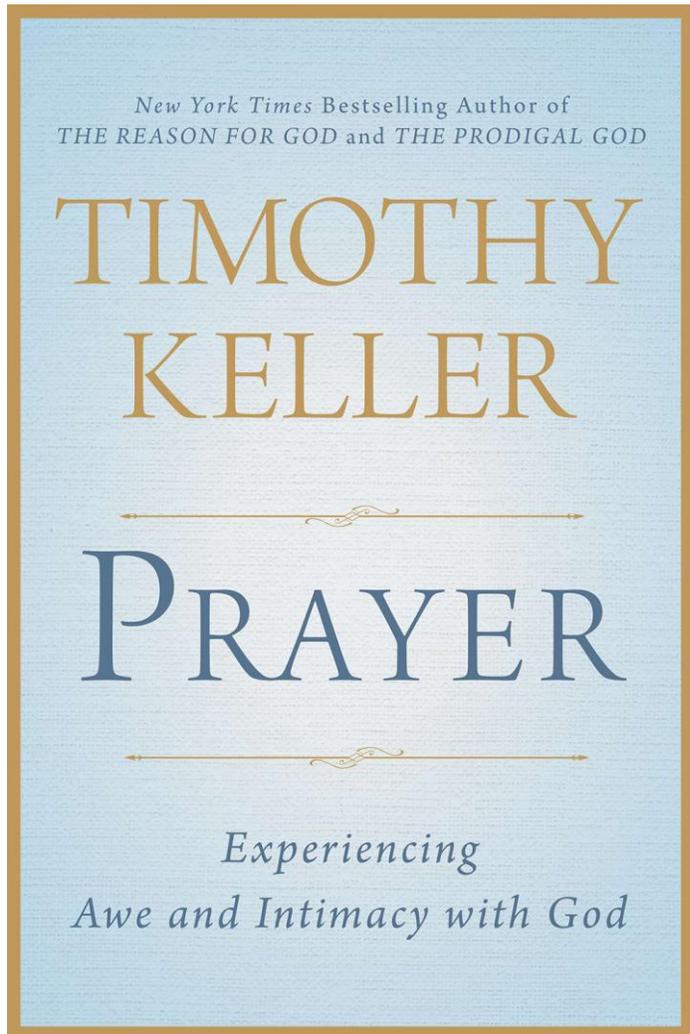
- Growing in relationship with God.
- Building God's Kingdom.





Why do we pray?

- Growing in relationship with God.
- Building God's Kingdom.



"Prayer is both conversation *and* encounter with God...We must know the awe of praising his glory, the intimacy of finding his grace, and the struggle of asking his help, all of which can lead us to know the spiritual reality of his presence. Prayer, then, is both awe *and* intimacy, struggle *and* reality."



Growing Relationship

Building Kingdom

Focus

- Knowing God in my life

- Seeing God work in the world

Outcome

- Internal transformation in my heart

- External transformation in people and circumstances

Type

- Praise & Thanksgiving
- Confession, Personal Petition

- Praise & Thanksgiving
- Intercession for Other People, Systems, and Circumstances

Scripture

- Read small sections slowly
- Silent meditation
- Listening for God's Word to you

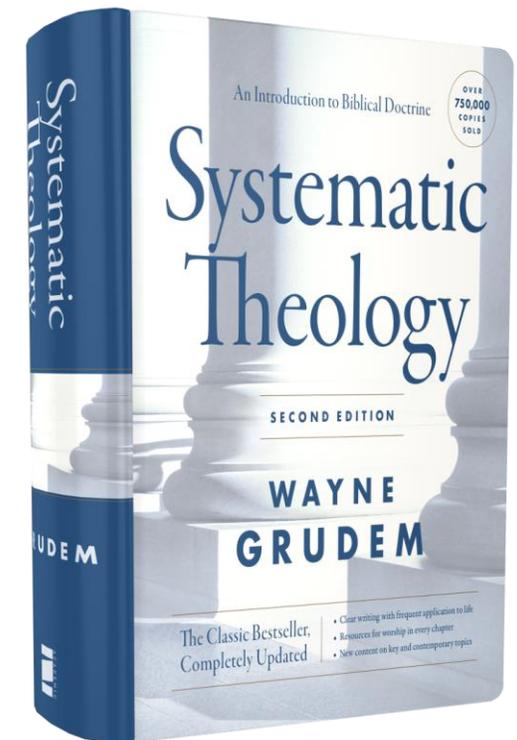
- In-depth study
- Understanding the nature and will of God



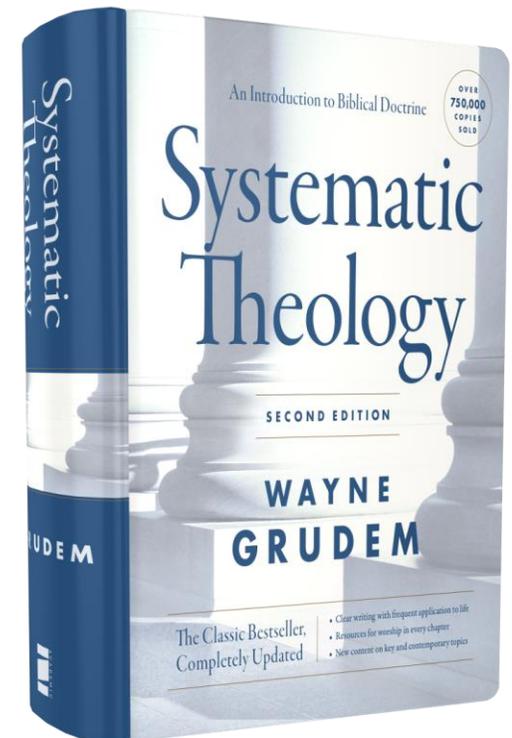
PRAY

**Growing in
Relationship &
Building God's
Kingdom
Work Together**

"God wants us to pray because prayer expresses our trust in God and is a means whereby our trust in him can increase...God as our Creator delights in being trusted by us as his creatures, for an attitude of dependence is most appropriate to the Creator/creature relationship...When we pray, we as persons, in the wholeness of our character, are relating to God as a person, in the wholeness of his character...It is only natural that God would delight in such activity and place much emphasis on it in his relationship with us...Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship with God, and he loves us and delights in our fellowship with him."



“God genuinely responds to our prayers by changing the way he acts in the world...in prayer God allows us as creatures to be involved in activities that are eternally important. When we pray, the work of the kingdom is advanced. In this way, prayer gives us an opportunity to be involved in a significant way in the work of the kingdom and thus gives expression to our greatness as creatures made in God’s image.”





Growing in Relationship

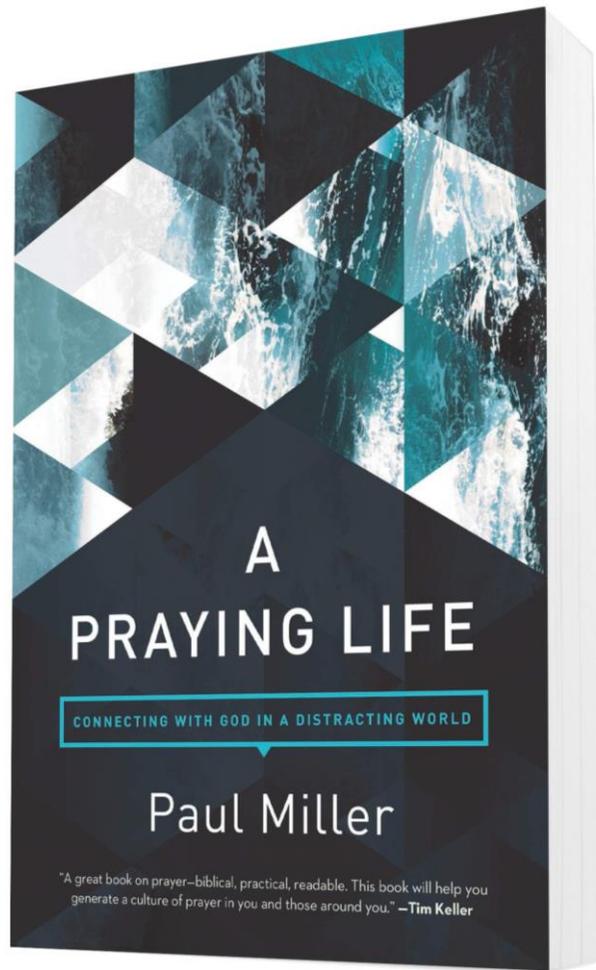
Galatians 4:9 - "...come to know God, or rather to be known by God."

Philippians 3:8 - "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus"

Ephesians 2:16 - "reconcile us both to God...killing the hostility"

Galatians 4:6 - "Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"

1 Corinthians 13:12 - "I shall know fully...as I have been fully known."



"Any relationship, if it is going to grow, needs private space, time together without an agenda, where you can get to know each other. This creates an environment where closeness can happen, where we can begin to understand each other's hearts. You don't create intimacy; you make room for it. This is true whether you are talking about your spouse, your friend, or God. You need space to be together. Efficiency, multitasking, and busyness all kill intimacy. In short, you can't get to know God on the fly."

“Draw near to God, and
he will draw near to you.”

- James 4:8





Growing in Relationship

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

– Psalm 46:10



Growing in Relationship

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

– Psalm 46:10

“But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.”

– Psalm 38:15





Building the Kingdom

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

- James 5:16



Building the Kingdom

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

- James 5:16

"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

- Luke 11:9-10



Effective Prayer



Effective Prayer

1. By the righteous

Psalm 34:15 - "The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry."

James 5:16 - "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."



Effective Prayer

1. By the righteous
2. From a life of obedience

1 John 3:21-22 - "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him."

John 15:7 - "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."



Effective Prayer

1. By the righteous
2. From a life of obedience
3. In faith

Matthew 21:22 - "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

James 1:5-6 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."



Effective Prayer

1. By the righteous
2. From a life of obedience
3. In faith
4. According to God's will

John 14:13-14 - "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

1 John 5:14-15 - "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."



Effective Prayer

1. By the righteous
2. From a life of obedience
3. In faith
4. According to God's will
5. With godward motivation

James 4:2-3 - "You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

Daniel 9:17-19 - "Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name..."



The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us
our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil."

*For yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

