

## **Prayer Questions**

(From: <https://djchannon.me.uk/provocative-prayer/>)

What do we understand by the word prayer?

Does God only listen to pleas from people? Other living things like Plants, Pets and veg? People with cognitive challenges? The ignorant?

Is prayer a fight? Spiritual warfare? Is it always a fight? Are there different forms of prayer for different purposes?

Can children pray? Should they pray at the front before confirmation / baptism and/or alpha course type training? How effective is their prayer? Is there anything we can learn from them?

Do big words help? Should we say prayers that we don't understand because it's part of going to church? How can we be sure we do understand what is said? Is it possible to understand every prayer presented to us in church without going to bible college?

Is there a formula or tick list criteria for effective prayer? What are the success criteria for prayer?

Is saying the same prayer repeatedly a help, hinderance or both?

Is a prayer routine helpful, or a spiritual hinderance. How rigidly should we stick to a prayer timetable?

Are we too fixated on how we look when we pray? Do we judge others when they pray? Do we expect others to pray in the same way we do? Do all people feel comfortable praying in church? How should we look when praying?

Does the length of prayer make any difference? How long should we pray each day? When should we pray? Where should we pray?

What is Christian Mindfulness? Do mindful practices help prayer. Is it a risk if other faiths use similar practices? Those exemplified by Jesus? Where can I learn about mindful approaches that might help?

What is Lectio Devina describing? What does praying the bible mean? Can you pray any book or just scripture? What is scripture?

If you get lost in the emotion of the music, is this still prayer? Could this be pop music of the type enjoyed at a party? Can I have a prayer party!

Can you just think a prayer? How do we listen to God's voice and know it's not just our own imagination, thinking, vision or dream.

Is speaking in tongues for the spiritual elite? Do you lack faith if you don't? Is speaking in tongues prayerfully different to that described when others understood what is said because it's their everyday language? Is there more than one type/purpose for speaking in tongues.

Is interpretation from others essential when spiritual tongues are heard in church? Should they be heard? How do you know that your gift of interpretation is not just your personal understanding / best guess?

Can you ask for very small things?

Does God get too busy when there is a crisis?

Why doesn't God always heal? Why doesn't God always answer prayer in the way we expect. What can be done if he feels distant?

Does it make any difference when we end a prayer with, "in the name of Jesus."

If God already knows everything -why bother telling him?

Is there a simple 'greatest commandments' type overview of prayer we can work from?