

An aerial photograph of a beach with vibrant turquoise water and white foam from waves crashing onto the sand. The text '40 days of Prayer' is overlaid in a white serif font.

40 *days of* Prayer

“A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO PRAYER”

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of the disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray . . .’”

Luke 11:1 (NIV)

Our frustrations with
prayer are caused by our
misconceptions about
prayer.

Some Common Misconceptions

- ☐ Prayer is a magic wand
- ☐ Prayer is a fire extinguisher
- ☐ Prayer is a tug of war
- ☐ Prayer is a ritual to relieve guilt

SIX FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER

I. God Loves For Me
To Talk To Him.

“We can be confident in approaching God, knowing that he listens to us whenever we ask him for anything according to his will. And since we know that he hears us when we make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us.”

1 John 5:14-15

PRAYER IS:

“I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NCV)

II. Prayer Is A Conversation,
Not A Ceremony.

III. Prayer Is A Relationship,
Not A Ritual.

IV. God Listens To Prayers That Are Sincere And Simple.

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get."

Matthew 6:5 (NIV)

“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”

Matthew 6:6 (NLT)

V. God Likes To
Show His Grace By
Answering Prayer.

“Call to me and I will answer you.
I will show you marvelous and
wondrous things that you could
never figure out on your own.”

Jeremiah 33:3 (Message)

“If you, being imperfect and sinful parents know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?”

Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

VI. God Longs To
Be close To Me.

“The Lord waits for you to come
to him so he can show you his
love and compassion.”

Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)

The closer I am to God,
the less stressed and
more blessed I'll be.

“I don’t want your sacrifices – I want your love! I don't want your offerings,
I want you to know me!”

Hosea 6:6 (LB)