

WHY PRAY?

- I. God Has Not Promised to Give Us **WHATEVER WE WANT**
 - A. Psalm 37:4 is not a promise that God will give you **WHATEVER** you **DESIRE**
 - 1. Requires that you **TRUST** in the Lord (37:3)
 - 2. Requires that you **DELIGHT** in the Lord (37:4)
 - 3. Requires that you **COMMIT** your **WAY** unto the Lord (37:5)
 - 4. Requires that you **REST** in the Lord (37:7)
 - 5. Results in God's giving you **RIGHT DESIRES** (37:4)
 - B. John 16:23 is not a promise that God will give you **WHATEVER** you **REQUEST**
 - 1. Assumes that you are **DOING** His **WORK**
 - 2. Assumes that you are **DESIRING** His **GLORY**
 - 3. Guarantees that you will **RECEIVE** what you **NEED** to do **BOTH**

- II. God Has Promised to Do **WHATEVER HE CHOOSES**
 - A. Includes God's **INTENDED ENDS** (Rom. 8:28)
 - 1. Working toward **HIS GLORY**
 - 2. Working toward **OUR GOOD**
 - B. Includes God's **APPOINTED MEANS** (Eph. 1:4; cf. 1:13)

III. So WHY Should We PRAY?

A. What prayer CANNOT do

1. Prayer cannot ENHANCE God's GLORY (Ps. 8:1)
2. Prayer cannot INCREASE God's KNOWLEDGE (Heb. 4:13).
3. Prayer cannot CORRECT God's PROGRAM (Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:20-21)
4. Prayer cannot CHANGE God's MIND (Mal. 3:6)

B. What prayer DOES

1. Prayer FOCUSES our THOUGHTS upward toward God
2. Prayer FORCES us to acknowledge our NEED for God
3. Prayer FOSTERS in us a DEPENDENCE upon God