



If God knows everything - why do we pray?

God does indeed know everything. If He didn't, He wouldn't be God! We read in 1 John 3:20: "God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."

Jesus even tells us point-blank in His Sermon on the Mount: "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

There are probably quite a few directions to go with answers to that question. I won't aim for hitting them all!

Maybe the easiest answer is this one: "We pray because God simply tells us to pray - and tells us quite often!" For example, our discipleship verse for August (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 said, "Rejoice always, pray continually..." And, of course, if God tells us to do something we know it is a good thing to do! The rest of the answers will highlight some of the benefits (good things) we get from praying.

Praying, by its very nature demonstrates two things that God requires of people who follow Him: Humility and Faith.

First, prayer humbles us. When we go to God asking Him for things, we are admitting that we are powerless to get those things by ourselves. That's humbling!

Second, prayer shows that we do trust God. We wouldn't ask Him for the things we can't do ourselves if we didn't trust that He does have the power to give them. Asking God also shows we trust that He has the wisdom to know the best way to answer and the right time to give what we need.

Another reason God tells us to ask for things that He already knows we need is this: If God just gave us everything without our asking, we might start to take these things for granted and forget "Every good gift and every perfect gift is FROM ABOVE, coming down from the Father of lights," (James 1:17) But when we ask first, and then receive, we are reminded that God is the Giver! That, again, strengthens our trust in Him.

Another good thing that results from praying is this: God desires a loving, trusting relationship with us. And you can't have a relationship with anyone without talking to them! When we talk to God, our relationship with Him is naturally strengthened.

Finally, we can't forget God's promise in Philippians 4:6-7:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

What a deal! God takes our anxieties and trades us His perfect peace! It doesn't get much better than that!

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

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