



“If God knows what we need, why do we pray?”

Great question! It came from one of our confirmation students after class one day after we read that “God knows our needs even before we ask.”

This isn't an exhaustive list of reasons, but probably the biggest ones:

- 1) Because of God's basic “love” character trait, He doesn't want to force things on us. He much prefers that we want what He has to give us (and indicate our desire for it by asking). Someone put it this way, “God has a heaven full of gifts with your name on them, just waiting for you to ask for them.” Makes you want to ask, doesn't it!
- 2) Receiving something we asked for increases our gratitude when we get that thing we asked for. When we get good things without asking - or even knowing we need them, we have a tendency to ‘take for granted’ (or even not notice) what God gave us. We tend to make a much more conscious effort to say “Thanks” when we asked before receiving.
- 3) Prayer strengthens our trust in God - that He has the power to give what we ask, and knows the right things to give - at just the right time. We wouldn't ask if we didn't trust those things.
- 4) It is humbling to have to admit there's something you can do or can't acquire on your own. That's what we are doing when we come to God in prayer. And the Bible is very, very clear, God loves it when we are humble and really doesn't like it when we act like we are god and don't need Him.

In short, praying not only reminds us of God's amazing love, it also increases our trust in Him, it humbles us and fosters an “attitude of gratitude.” Just some of the reasons God tells us to come to Him constantly in prayer.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net