

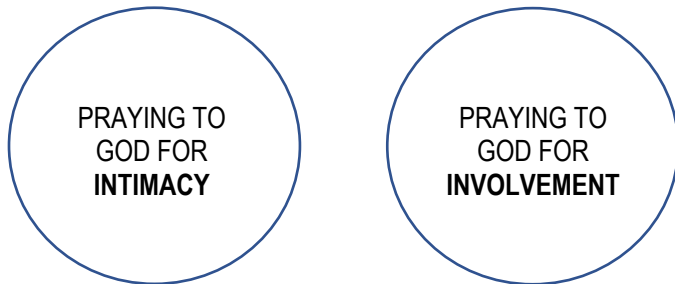
CHOOSE To Connect

You and I are in large part
where we are and who we are
as a direct result of the choices we make.

PRAYER is personal communication with God.

When you pray you choose to personally communicate with God.
When you do not pray you choose to not personally communicate with God.
There is no other choosing.

Two Categories of Prayer



INTIMACY is what we call the experience of really knowing and being known by another person.

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

Deuteronomy 4:7

The vast majority of the Apostle Paul's recorded prayers for others are prayers that fit into the INTIMACY circle.

Ephesians 1:16-21
Ephesians 3:14-19
Philippians 1:3-11
Colossians 1:9-14

Ordinarily our prayers are not varied – they consist usually of petitions, occasionally some confession (if we have just done something wrong). Seldom or never do we spend sustained time adoring and praising God. In short, we have no positive, inner desire to pray. We do it only when circumstances force us. Why? We know God is there, but we tend to see him as a means through which we get things to make us happy. For most of us, he has not become our happiness. We therefore pray to procure things, not to know him better.

Prayer, Timothy Keller p 78

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:16-23

The better our understanding of God the better our prayer life.

The power in our prayers does not come from any special technique of flowing words or posture or location we might be in, nor does it come from any self-effort on our part to impress God. It comes instead from how well we know God.

Prayer is the way to experience a powerful confidence that God is handling our lives well, that our bad things will turn out for good, our good things cannot be taken from us, and the best things are yet to come.

Prayer, Timothy Keller p 73