

PRAYER DEFINITION

In the New Testament, the Greek word most often used for “prayer” is proseuchomai.

This word comes from pros meaning “toward,” and euchomai, meaning “the face.”

Thus, prayer means coming to God face – to face.

When we come to God in prayer, we need to realize that He has invited us unto His presence for a face to face.

When God invites us into His presence, He goes a step farther – He takes us into His very heart.

Prayer is not about words, or about trying to persuade God to do something on our behalf; rather prayer is about our love relationship with our Creator.

One of the Church Fathers summarized this idea best when he said that he who prays well, loves well.¹

Matthew 7:7-8. Modern ears hear these words only as a promise of instantaneous results. But we may accurately translate Jesus’ words this way, “Be asking and it will be given you, be seeking and you will find, Be knocking and the door will be opened to you.” These words that indicate our prayers are to be ongoing and continuous reminds us that in praying we often discern what we should pray.²

¹ Elmer L. Towns, How to Pray

² Bryan Chapell, Praying Backwards