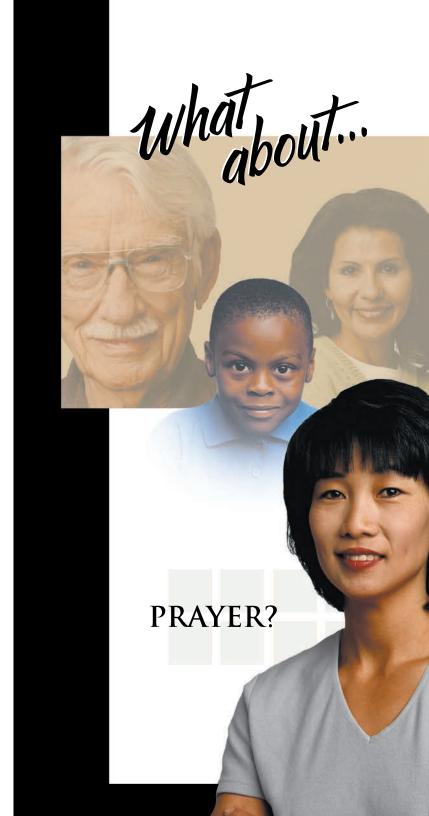


"PRAYER IS TALKING WITH GOD...
GOD LOVES US AND WANTS TO HEAR
WHAT'S ON OUR HEARTS."



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What About...Prayer?

God loves us and wants to hear what's on our hearts. Because of Jesus we are God's children and can come to him in prayer. When we come as his dear children through Jesus, God promises to hear us. Jesus told his followers: "Ask and it will be given to you... For everyone who asks receives" (Luke 11:9,10).

Does that mean that God gives us everything we ask for? Well, ask yourself if your parents always gave you everything you wanted. As a child you wanted many things. Sometimes they gave you what you wanted. At other times they did not. They even made you wait until you grew older before they gave you some things. God is like that too.

Our heavenly Father knows what is good for us. Sometimes he will give us what we want. He loves us and wants us to have the best. Sometimes he will refuse to give us what we want. In those cases, he simply knows that what we want will not be good for us or for those around us. And, of course, God will even make us wait for some things because he knows that we are not ready to receive them.

Sometimes when God decides not to give us what we want or delays his answer, we act like spoiled children. We grumble that we didn't get our way and get angry at our heavenly Father. But God forgives our temper tantrums. He cleanses us with the forgiveness of Jesus. Then through his Word, he helps us grow spiritually so that we appreciate his gifts and develop a mature faith in him.

Remember that God sees all and knows all, including the future. We don't. So when we pray, we depend on his knowledge and vision. We trust that he will give us what is good for us in the long run. We also know that God is powerful and can do more than we could ever imagine.

Prayer is talking with the God who loves us and can give us what is really important. Take some quiet time regularly—with a cup of coffee, in the warm sunshine, at the end of the day, alone, or with your family—and talk to your heavenly Father. He's waiting to hear from you. He promises to listen with love in his heart, eager to help.

"Prayer is talking with the God who loves us"







