

3. WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT NOT IN PRAYER.

Reasons people give not to pray:

- * I am not good at it.
- * I get bored too easily
- * I'm not eloquent enough.
- * I don't want to bother God with my requests.
- * My prayers don't make a difference.

A simple definition of prayer: Prayer is _____ with God.

1. PRAYER IS _____ COMMUNICATION.

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again."
Matthew 6:5,7 (NLT)

"O Lord, how long must I call for help before you will listen? I shout to you in vain; there is no answer. "Help! Murder!" I cry, but no one comes to save. Must I forever see this sin and sadness all around me?" Habakkuk 1:2-3 (LB)

"I can't stand my life—I hate it! I'm putting it all out on the table, all the bitterness of my life—I'm holding back nothing." Job 10:1 (MSG)

2. PRAYER IS _____ COMMUNICATION.

"Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NCV)

PUSH - _____

3. PRAYER IS _____ COMMUNICATION.

THE CHRISTIAN ATHEIST

UNANSWERED PRAYER

1. OUR _____ WITH OTHER PEOPLE MATTER.

"I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." Mark 11:24-25 (NLT)

2. OUR _____ MATTER.

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3 (NIV)

"All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord." Proverbs 16:2 (NIV)

3. THE WAY WE _____ MATTERS.

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16 (NLT)

4. OUR _____ MATTERS.

"But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord." James 1:6-8 (NRSV)

"And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him."
1 John 5:14-15 (NRSV)

Bible Translations: New Living Translation (NLT); New Century Version (NCV); New Revised Standard Version (NRSV); The Living Bible (LB); The Message Paraphrase (MSG).
Sermon based on a book by Craig Groeschel—The Christian Atheist.
