

Pray First 1-14-24 – Pastor Bill

1. Whom would you call or ask if you needed help with something?
2. When do you typically pray and what do you typically pray about?

Hebrews 4:16 - So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

3. Do you pray boldly?
4. Do you think of God as gracious?

Matthew 7:9-11 - "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him.

5. What good gifts has God given you?
6. What are you asking God for?

James 4:2 - You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

7. What are your thoughts about this verse?
8. How do you scheme to get what you want?
9. Where are you jealous of what others have?
10. Do you think having what we want is as simple as asking God for it?

1. Thank God

Romans 1:8 - Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world.

11. The Apostle Paul learned to thank God first in his prayers. Do you regularly thank God when you pray?
12. When do you find it hard to thank God?

2. Ask God to Help Others

Romans 1:9 - ⁹God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.

13. Do you regularly pray for others?
14. Who do you know that needs to know Jesus?
15. Who can you pray for that their faith would grow?

3. Ask Others to Pray for You

Romans 15:30 - Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit.

10. Do you find it easy or hard to ask for help from others?
11. The Apostle Paul asked for others to pray for him. Who could you ask to pray for you regularly?
12. Is prayer the first thing you turn to in every circumstance in life?
13. Is prayer something you do naturally, regardless of what is happening in your life?
14. What could you do to make prayer a greater priority in your life?
15. Do you think that prayer makes a difference? If so how? If not, why not?