

Worshiping God through Prayer

Read [Genesis 3:1–24](#)

THE FIRST QUESTION (FROM [GENESIS 3:1–24](#))

What question does God ask Adam in the following verses?

[Genesis 3:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

God asked Adam:

(“*Where are you?*”)

This is the first recorded question that God ever asked a human being: “*Where are you?*” God asked this question right after Adam and Eve’s sin. In shame, they were hiding from him behind the trees in the garden. What I want you to notice is that Adam and Eve recognized “*the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden*” that day. Why? Because they were used to hearing it. It was God’s custom to come and visit with them “*in the cool of the day.*”

God’s desire from the beginning has been for a relationship with us. We can have that relationship today through prayer. We can have a meeting place with God. The first recorded question God asked a human is the question he still asks us today: “*Where are you?*”

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Florence Chadwick was the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions. On July 4, 1952, she set out to accomplish another goal: to be the first woman to swim from Catalina Island to the California coast, 21 miles. She set out in the morning, battling fatigue and the numbing cold of the water—and there was another problem that day: fog.

Fifteen hours later, Florence signaled to the boats attending her, and asked to be taken out of the water. Her mother and trainer, who were in the boats, urged her to keep going, saying the coast was close. But all Florence could see was the fog, and insisted on quitting. When she was taken out, she discovered that she had been only one half mile from her destination! She declared that she would have kept going if she could have seen the shore.

Her experience reveals a truth: When we lose our vision, we lose our way. When a couple loses hope for their marriage, divorce is on the way. When a young person doesn't have a dream to pursue, he or she is more likely to end up using illegal drugs. When a pastor forgets the privilege of his call, he resigns his church. When we lose our vision, we lose our way. The Bible puts it this way:

Proverbs 29:18a (NASB)

**¹⁸“Where there is no vision,
the people are unrestrained (perish),
But happy is he who keeps the law.”**

One way to keep our vision in life is to be a worshiper of God. When our eyes are on him, everything else tends to fall into place. And one way to be a worshiper of God, as Jesus taught in the Model Prayer, is in our prayer life:

Matthew 6:9 (NASB)

⁹“Pray, then, in this way: ”

Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”

Notice that there is no request in this first verse of the **Model Prayer**. God is not asked to do anything or give anything or help in any way. The verses that follow in the rest of the prayer contain requests:

“your kingdom come, your will be done....” (v. 10)

“Give us today our daily bread.” (v. 11)

“Forgive us....” (v. 12)

“And lead us....” (v. 13)

“... deliver us....” (v. 13)

But there is no request in the first verse. God is simply addressed intimately (“**Our Father in heaven**”) and reverently (“**hallowed be your name**”). The point is, this is a prayer of worship—nothing else.

Jesus' plan for knowing God through prayer starts with worship.

Let's answer three questions about worshiping God through prayer:

- 1) What does it mean to worship?**
- 2) How do I worship God through prayer?**
- 3) What will it do for me?**