

# Meeting Your Needs through Prayer

Read [Matthew 6:9-13](#)

Let's look now at the third characteristic of the kind of prayer that meets needs.

## A PRAYER THAT MEETS NEEDS ASKS ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE

A prayer that meets needs not only *asks*, and asks *specifically*, but it also asks *according to God's plan for our life*. What I mean is, some things we're asking for, which we think are needs, are *not* needs according to God's plan for our life. If he were to meet those "needs," it would actually throw us off course.

Listen to the following testimony from Pastor Gary Gardner: "I experienced this when I was fresh out of college with a teaching degree. My plan was to teach high school English. For a year and a half, I looked for a teaching position with no results. I applied at public and Christian high schools. I even applied at a school for troubled kids (where applicants weren't exactly beating down the door). I had positive interviews. I was in demand as a substitute teacher. I was qualified. But no one offered me a contract.

Here's what I want to point out: I was praying the whole time! I was praying with full confidence that a teaching job was a "need" I had. I was praying trustingly, and I was trying to live an obedient Christian life. But no one offered me a contract. It was very frustrating.

I couldn't explain it then, but I think I can now. Something was happening inside me during that year and a half. I was beginning to wonder if I was being called into the ministry. I wasn't against the idea. As a new Christian, I could think of nothing more exciting than spending my time talking to people about Jesus. However, I had a hard time believing God could really want me.

Finally, in prayer one night, the call became clear to me. I said yes to God and went to bed happy.

Guess what happened the next morning? A principal called me about a job! I told her, "Thanks, but I'm going into the ministry." She said, "Oh. That's wonderful."

My point is, what if God had answered my prayer and met my "need" for a teaching contract at some point in that year and a half when I was looking for one and praying for one? I may have never entered the ministry. At the very least, I would have had a much harder time hearing and saying yes to his call. I may have missed out on God's best plan for my life."

A prayer that meets needs asks *according to God's plan for our life*. Have you been praying for a “**need**” to be met, and nothing’s happening? Maybe you’re asking for a job that he doesn’t want you to have, that wouldn’t be best for you. Maybe you’re asking for a relationship with a certain person, which would actually turn out disastrous. Maybe you’re asking to be removed from a difficult set of circumstances, but God wants you to stay where you are and be of service. God may not be answering that prayer because it’s not according to his plan for your life. It’s something to consider. He loves you and he knows best.

## **SUMMARY**

We all have needs—it’s a part of being human. The good news is God wants to meet our needs. One way he meets our needs is through prayer. What kind of prayer results in needs being met? A prayer that *asks*. A prayer that asks *specifically*. A prayer that asks *according to God's plan for our life*.