



Part 2: The Purpose of Prayer

INTRODUCTION

It can be easy to fall into the habit of treating God like a vending machine – asking God for what you need when you need it and expecting Him to dispense it accordingly. But when God doesn't do what we want Him to do, it can cause a lot of confusion. If we let that inform us about who God is and His love for us, does that mean He doesn't really care or love us? Is there a different way to approach God so that we don't put God's character on the line when we pray?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does the word "surrender" bring up for you? Is this initially appealing or unappealing? Why?
2. Have you viewed God has a vending machine? Have you been disappointed by seemingly unanswered prayers? What happened? How did you view God after that?
3. What do you think about the statement: "What if God's plans include you, but don't center on you?"
4. Have you ever experienced being on the other side of an unanswered prayer and found yourself grateful that things did not turn out the way you wanted?
5. Have you ever experienced being on the other side of an unanswered prayer and seen how God worked out things, even if they weren't in the way you wanted them to originally?

THIS WEEK

Continue to meet God at your intentional place and time. Start your prayer time acknowledging the sovereignty of God. Declare His greatness. And consider surrendering your will to His before you ask for what you need.

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom** come, **your will** be done, on **earth** as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:9