

THE GOD TO WHOM WE PRAY

To whom is the believer to pray? The believer is a child of God through the new birth. People become children of God, not by being born, but by being born again. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." The believer's prayer is the petition of a child to an omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent Father-God.

I. Some People Have Man-Made or Man-Conceived Gods.

Some have prayed to gods made by man's hands. Some have prayed to forces of nature. Pharaoh worshipped the gods of Egypt and prayed to them. The Egyptians had gods, but not God. One of their gods was the Nile River. But God vented His wrath and showed His power against the gods of the Egyptians. God said, "And against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment." Exodus 12:12. All the plagues were death blows at the gods of the Egyptians.

David testified that there are other gods: "Among the gods, there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works." Psalm 86:8. The Philistines had their gods. Elijah, called an apostate nation back to God, in contest with the prophets of Baal, showed that the people had Baal and gods, but they were miserable failures.

All who worship strange gods find them as dumb as death, and silent as the grave, and as impotent as the arm of a corpse.

There is a God! Only fools say there is no God. In Genesis 1:1, we read: "In the beginning God." God is the supreme fact of nature, of history, or science, of personal life, of death, of time, and of eternity.

II. What Sort of Person Is The God To Whom We Pray?

1. God is the Creator.

"God made the world and all things therein." Acts 17:24.

2. God is sovereign.

"He is Lord of heaven and earth." Acts 17:24.

3. God is unlimited.

"He dwelleth not in temples made with hand." Acts 17:24.

4. God is self-existent.

"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing." Acts 17:25.

5. God is the source of life.

"He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17:25.

6. God is the ruler of events.

"He hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Acts 17:26.

7. God is accessible.

"Though He be not far from every one of us." Acts 17:27.

8. God is essential.

"In Him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28.

9. God is holy.
"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:3.
"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."
Revelation 4:8.
10. God is wise.
"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33.
11. God is love.
"God is love." I John 4:8.
12. God is just.
"A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." Deuteronomy 42:4.
13. God is merciful.
His mercy is manifested in sparing sinners, in delivering from sickness and sorrow, and in caring for us in time of trouble.
14. God is faithful.
"If we are faithless, He abideth faithful." He has never failed any person who has trusted Him; therefore, we can always rely on Him.
15. God is eternal.
He is the great "I AM" to whom a thousand years are as a day.

III. What Do God and Christ Tell Us As Believers To Do?

Both tell us to pray. "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3. "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Psalm 50:15. "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him." Psalm 91:15. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon him in truth." Psalm 145:18.

When we think upon God and His attributes and upon Christ in whose name we must pray, we shall be encouraged to pray.