

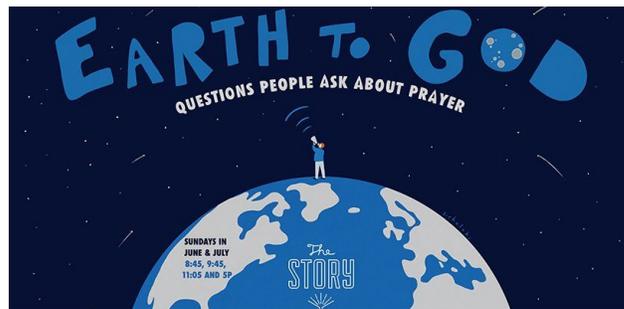
Sermon Study Guide

The Story Houston - June 16, 2019

Eric Huffman - Lead Pastor

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Intro to 'Earth to God'

Welcome to The Story's new sermon series on prayer. For the next five weeks, we will explore the questions ordinary folks are asking about prayer. Over the past couple of months, I've received dozens of your questions about prayer via email, including:

- What's the point of praying if God already knows everything?
- Is prayer more effective when a bunch of people all pray for the same thing?
- Is there a right and wrong way to pray?
- Is it okay to pray to the saints?
- Why does God seem to answer some prayers and not others?
- If Christians celebrate answered prayers as signs of God's faithfulness, doesn't that mean unanswered prayers are signs of God's unfaithfulness?
- Does God change His mind?

Each week in this series, I'll address one or more of the "prayer questions" that you've submitted. Remember: you can always bring questions, feedback, or push-back to the 5:00 Q&A service, or email us at earthtogod@thestory.church. The question before us today is:

Is there any proof that prayer really works?

What were your thoughts about this question before hearing this message? On what authority or knowledge do you base your understanding?

Scientists have conducted dozens of tests in an attempt to measure the effectiveness of prayer. What have those studies shown? What is the fundamental problem with these studies?

What is the primary purpose of prayer in the Christian worldview?

What did Jesus say about prayer, and how have his words been misunderstood?

Jn 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

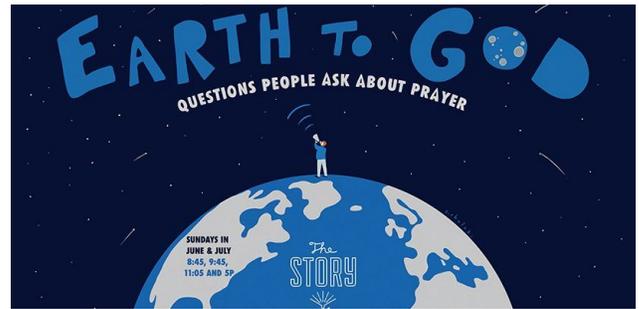
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What does the rest of the Bible teach us about prayer?

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Jer. 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Why do Christians believe that prayer works?

How do Christians believe that prayer works?

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Your notes and reflections: