

Belief #8 **Relationship through Prayer, Meditation on the Word, and Worship**

We believe that God desires a living, personal relationship with every believer — and that this relationship is cultivated through consistent prayer, meditating on and applying his Word, and offering heartfelt worship. These are not religious duties but the means by which we draw near to God and he draws near to us.

Reason 1 Jesus taught his disciples how to pray — modeling intimate relationship with the Father

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them a model that begins with “Our Father” — establishing prayer not as a formal religious ritual but as a conversation between a child and a loving Father.

Matthew 6:6–8

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

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Luke 5:16

“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

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Reason 2 We are commanded to pray without ceasing and to bring everything to God

Paul commands believers to pray continually and to present every anxious thought to God with thanksgiving — replacing anxiety with the peace of God that surpasses understanding.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Pray continually.”

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Philippians 4:6–7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

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Reason 3 God answers prayer — he invites us to ask, seek, and knock

Jesus gave his followers extraordinary confidence in prayer — promising that those who ask will receive, those who seek will find, and those who knock will have the door opened.

Matthew 7:7–8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

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James 5:16

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

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Reason 4 Meditating on God's Word day and night produces a fruitful and prosperous life

The very first Psalm sets the foundation — the blessed person is one who meditates on God's law day and night. This is not passive reading but active, prayerful reflection that transforms the mind and brings spiritual fruitfulness.

Psalms 1:2–3

"...but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers."

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Joshua 1:8

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

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Reason 5 Renewing the mind through the Word transforms us from the inside out

Paul calls believers not to conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds — and that renewal comes through immersion in God's Word.

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will."

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Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

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Reason 6 God seeks worshippers who worship in spirit and in truth

In his conversation with the woman at the well, Jesus revealed that the Father is actively seeking true worshippers — not those who merely go through religious motions, but those who worship from the heart in spirit and in truth.

John 4:23–24

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

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Reason 7 Worship is our reasonable response to who God is and all he has done

Paul urges believers to offer their entire lives as living sacrifices — a whole-life worship that flows from gratitude for God's mercies. The Psalms call us to praise God with everything we have, at all times.

Romans 12:1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."

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Psalms 150:6

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."

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Summary — Belief #8

- **Jesus modeled intimate prayer with the Father** — Matthew 6:6–8 and Luke 5:16 show both his teaching and his practice.
- **We are commanded to pray without ceasing** — 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and Philippians 4:6–7 replace anxiety with peace.
- **God answers prayer — ask, seek, and knock** — Matthew 7:7–8 and James 5:16 give believers bold confidence in prayer.
- **Meditating on the Word day and night produces a fruitful life** — Psalm 1:2–3 and Joshua 1:8 are the foundation.
- **Renewing the mind through the Word transforms us** — Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 4:12 show its living, active power.
- **God seeks worshippers in spirit and in truth** — John 4:23–24 defines what true worship really is.
- **Worship is our whole-life response to God** — Romans 12:1 and Psalm 150:6 call us to praise in everything.