

# **LEARN TO PRAY**

## **‘Praying with understanding’**

### **Introduction**

- if God already knows, why pray?

### **1. God is absolutely sovereign**

- all knowing (Prov 16:33, Matt 6:8)
- all powerful (Ps 115:3, Prov 16:4)
- has a plan for the world (Eph 1:11)

### **2. We have a responsibility to pray**

- we are commanded to pray (Matt 26:41)
- we pray to develop our relationship with God (John 1:12)
- we do not have because we do not ask (James 4:2, Luke 11:9, James 5:16-17)

### **3. God has chosen to use our prayers as part of his plans**

- prayer turns aside God’s anger (Ex 32)
- prayer leads to revival (2 Chron 7:14)
- prayer leads to personal forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
- prayer activates an angelic response (Dan 9:23)
- prayer gives us boldness in evangelism (Acts 4:29, 31)
- prayer leads to miraculous deliverance for God’s servants (Acts 12)

### **Conclusion**

### **For further reading...**

DA Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, IVP, 1992, Ch9 – a sovereign and a personal God

Douglas F. Kelly, *If God already knows, why pray?* Christian Focus, 1995

John Piper, resources at [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org) especially *Prayer and Predestination – a conversation between Prayerful and Prayerless*