

**WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM GOD?
Two Paradigms; Eight Assumptions
From the book, "THE PAPA PRAYER" by Larry Crabb**

The "Get to Know God Better" Paradigm

Assumption #1

Prayer is more about hearing God than about Him hearing us. We're the audience.

Assumption #2

Real prayer is never dull. We aren't praying unless prayer is the most vital thing we do, whether we receive what we ask for or not.

Assumption #3

Prayer is the God-appointed means for us to come to know Him as Papa.

Assumption #4

Prayer can become the conversation you longed to have with your earthly father. As that happens, your "father wounds" are healed.

Assumption #5

Power in petitionary prayer depends on intimacy in relational prayer. Know God a little and experience little power in petition. Know God a lot and experience great power in petition.

Assumption #6

Petitioning God without first relating to Him transforms legitimate desire into entitled demands.

Assumption #7

Prayer is not a technique for persuading a reluctant God to give us what we want. It is our primary opportunity to get acquainted with God in this life before we see Him in the next.

Assumption #8

Knowing God changes what we most want in this life, and that changes what we most fervently request.

The "Get Things from God" Paradigm

Assumption #1

Prayer is an opportunity to get God to hear our request. He's our audience.

Assumption #2

Excitement in prayer depends on receiving what we ask for, or at least on the hope that we will.

Assumption #3

Prayer is the God-appointed means for us to receive what we need in order to feel satisfaction and fulfillment.

Assumption #4

Prayer consists of asking things from God in a way that releases Him to treat us like children who are entitled to their inheritance.

Assumption #5

Power in petitionary prayer depends on visible passion, declared faith, length of prayer, number of prayers, and perhaps posture.

Assumption #6

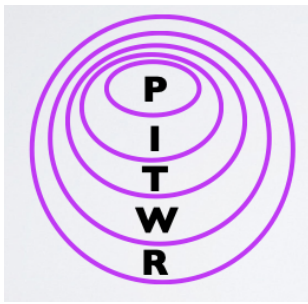
Prayer is our way of holding God to His promises. We have a right to approach God, knowing we are entitled to what He has promised.

Assumption #7

Prayer is a method for securing blessing now that we will receive in full measure later.

Assumption #8

God grants the desire of our hearts. Therefore, we should discern what we believe would bring us the most satisfaction and ask for that.



FALSE PRAYER
A Me-Centered Prayer Life

PETITION:

Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!

- * Bless me, dear God.
- * Give me the good life of fulfillment and joy.

INTERCESSION:

Change Things for My Sake

- * Work in others and in my circumstances with my well-being in view.

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You for My Blessings

- * You're useful
- * I like it.
- * Keep it up!

WORSHIP:

Here's My Tip for Good Service

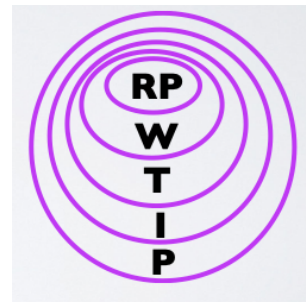
- * I'll sing and praise You for what You've given me.
- * Hey, worship is easy. All I have to do is work up fervent emotions. Sacrifice isn't required.

RELATING:

Tell Me What to Do to Keep Good Times

Rolling

- * I'll do my part for as long as You do Yours.



TRUE PRAYER
A Relationally-Centered Prayer Life

RELATIONAL PRAYER:

Draw Near and Listen

- * Remain in Christ
- * Let God's word remain in you

WORSHIP:

Bend Low As a Living Sacrifice

- * Surrender every second thing to gain union with God.

THANKSGIVING:

In Every Circumstance Give Thanks

- * Thank God for the unique opportunity every blessing or trial presents to delight God's heart and reveal Him to others.

INTERCESSION:

May Your Kingdom Come Through Others

- * Change people's hearts so that they long to advance Your will.

PETITION:

With the Mind of Christ, Ask and Receive

- * Petitions grow out of a desire for God...

THE PAPA PRAYER

P: Present yourself to God without pretense.

A: Attend to how you're thinking of God.

P: Purge yourself of anything blocking your relationship with God.

A: Approach God as the "first thing" in your life

THE PAPA PRAYER by Larry Crabb.