

**How does prayer fit into God's
sovereign plan?**

**What is the purpose for our praying
if God has already determined the
answers before we even start?**



***If God Already Knows,
Why Pray?***

Matthew 6:8, et al.



1. God invites us to ask for what we need.

Matthew 7:7-8

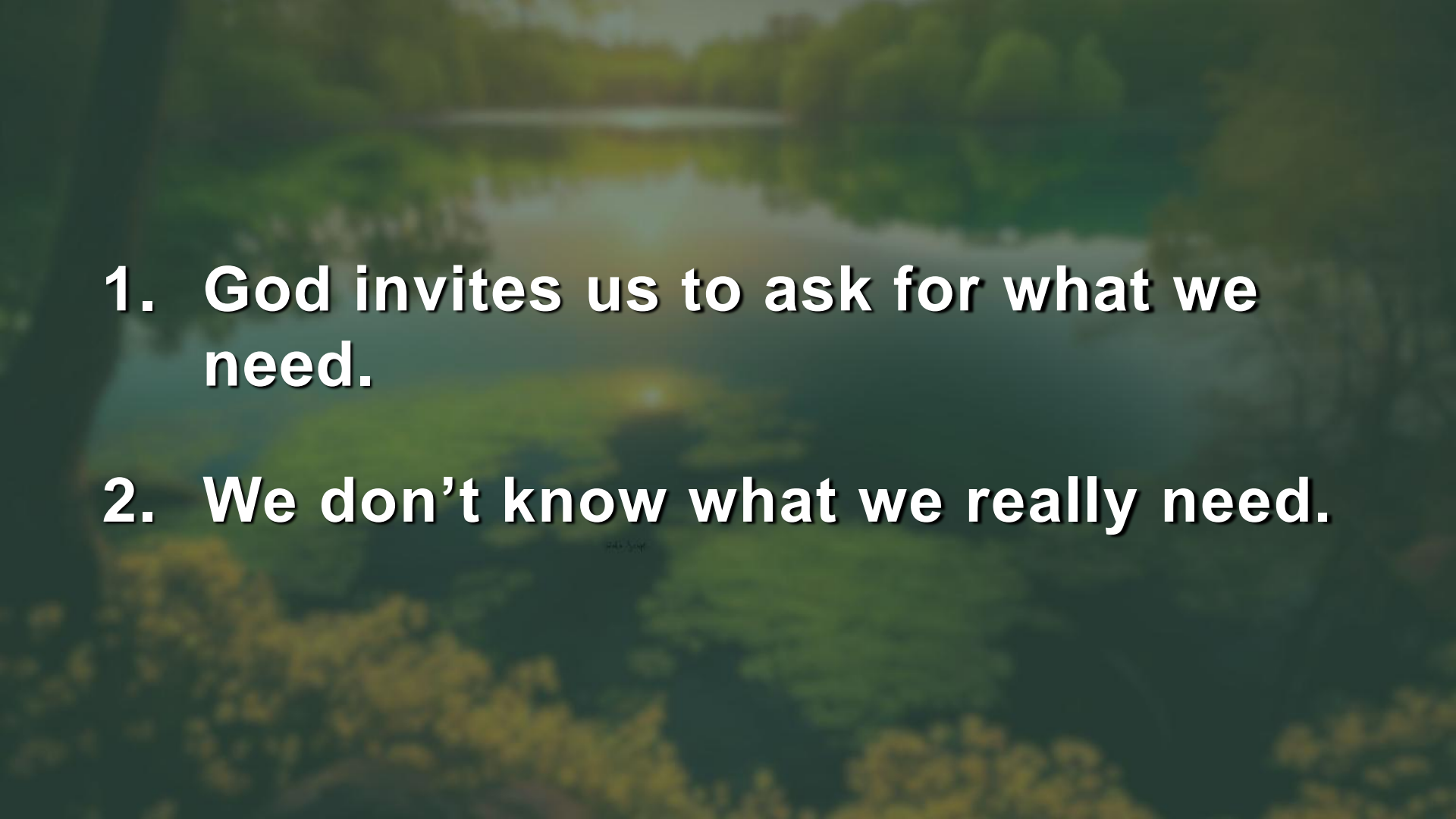
“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Psalm 81:10

**“I am the LORD thy God, which
brought thee out of the land of
Egypt: open thy mouth wide,
and I will fill it.”**

John 14:13

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

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- 1. God invites us to ask for what we need.**
 - 2. We don't know what we really need.**

Romans 8:26

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:27

“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

- 1. God invites us to ask for what we need.**
- 2. We don't know what we really need.**
- 3. God knows what we need before we ask Him.**
- 4. Our prayers aren't about making God aware of our need.**

Psalm 139:1-4

“O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.”

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- 3. God knows what we need before we ask Him.**

- 4. Our prayers aren't about making God aware of our need.**
- 5. We pray to express our total dependence on God.**
- 6. We pray because God responds to our persistent faith.**

Luke 18:7-8a

“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. ...”



James 5:16b

“... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

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If God is sovereign, why pray?

- A. Because God has commanded us to pray.**
- B. Because our prayers are part of God's plan for the universe.**
- C. Because God is honored when we depend on Him.**

Luke 18:7-8

“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”



James 4:2b

“... ye have not, because ye ask not.”

**Our part is to pray fervently, sincerely,
and honestly, bringing our deepest
concerns to the Lord. God's part is to
listen to our prayers and to graciously
answer them in His own time, in His
own way, according to His own will,
and for His own glory.**

Isaiah 62:6-7

**“I have set watchmen upon thy walls,
O Jerusalem, which shall never hold
their peace day nor night: ye that
make mention of the LORD, keep not
silence, 7 And give him no rest, till
he establish, and till he make
Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”**