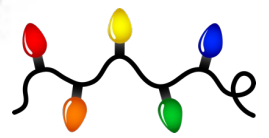




Reasons

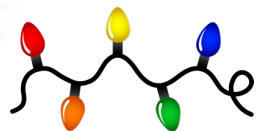
for the Season





Reasons

for the Season



Chapter 1:
Santa & the Prayer Wishlist

Where you
a Santa
believer?

Why or
why not?



Is prayer like a Christmas wish list, where we ask God for anything that we want?





Matthew 7:7-8

3 continuous actions:

- ask
- seek
- knock

3 mystery objects:

- What are we asking for?
- What are we seeking?
- What door are we knocking on?

3 promises:

- What you ask for will be given to you
- What you seek you will find
- What you knock on will be opened


What should we pray for?





Matthew 6:9-10

God's will (His desire)



God's sovereign will:
the secret things
(Deut. 29:29)

God's moral will:
your sanctification
(1 Thess. 4:3)

- God's sovereign will (desire) will be done.
- If we ask for it, we will get it.
- If we seek it, we will find it.
- If we knock on it, it will open.

Do we pray for wants and needs?

WANT



NEED



We can pray for anything
within God's moral will.



When I pray, are my desires
inside God's moral will?





Matthew 7:9-11

God may answer yes, no, or wait. Each answer is a good gift within His sovereign will.



Reasons
we don't
pray for
good
gifts. . .



we're ashamed of our past.

Reasons
we don't
pray for
good
gifts. . .



God “stole” good gifts from us before.

Reasons
we don't
pray for
good
gifts. . .



we don't believe prayer works.

**God is too good to be unkind,
too wise to be mistaken; and
when you cannot trace His hand,
you can trust His heart.**

Charles H. Spurgeon

What reason stops me from praying for good gifts?





Matthew 5:45



Santa only gives gifts to people on the nice list.
God gives gifts to people on the naughty list.

Live the truth

- Pray for good gifts.
- Examine your motive.

Why do you want it?

Is it within God's moral will?

—MY CHRISTMAS—
Wish
list



Chapter 2:
Christmas Lights & the Light of the World