

Discussion Questions for “Overlooked Wisdom: Praying Wisely”

1 Kings 3:1-15, Pastor Tom Olson, Weekend of July 26th & 27th, 2025

Sermon Outline

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. (v. 10)

Eight helps for prayer that’s pleasing to the Lord:

1. Ask God (vv. 5, 9).
2. Cultivate your love for God (vv. 3-4).
3. Learn God’s love for you (v. 6).
4. Turn God’s promises into prayers (vv. 6-9).
5. Admit your need (vv. 7, 9).
6. Look to God for your need (v. 9).
7. Seek God’s glory (vv. 8-9, 11).
8. Ask God for wisdom (vv. 9-12).

Sermon Questions

1. Let’s begin with some *encouragement*:
 - a. What’s going *well* in your prayer life right now?
 - b. Is there a prayer request that God’s answered recently? Give testimony to this!
2. How can we *know for sure* that God loves us? Take time to come up with a substantial list of Scriptures and biblical principles that assure us of this truth.
3. How can we cultivate our own love for God?
4. Why, as we see in 1 Kings 3, does *God’s love for us* and *our love for God* help us pray?
 - a. What might it say about our love for God if we *don’t* want to pray?
 - b. And what lies might we believing about God if we *don’t* want to pray?
5. What are some promises from God in Scripture that you can turn into prayers? Try to come up with at least 3 or 4.
6. Why is humility a *help* to prayer and pride a *hindrance* to it? Share a time that you’ve seen this principle at work – positively or negatively – in your own walk with Jesus.

(Questions continue on next page.)

7. Talk through a few scenarios. What might a God-glorifying prayer look like when you're praying for...
 - a. An unbelieving loved one?
 - b. A health crisis?
 - c. A financial need?
8. Why do you think praying for wisdom is so pleasing to God, as we see here in 1 Kings 3 and James 1:5-6?
9. How do you need wisdom in your life right now? Take time to pray through that – and pray knowing that such a prayer pleases God!
10. Any other takeaways from this passage or message?