

## Praying to God

*God is a friend who is always near, ever dear. Prayer is the means by which we share our hearts with Him and be with Him in a bubble of mutual love.*

**Being intimate with the Infinite.** With any relationship, including the relationship with God, what you bring to it makes a difference. If your prayer is loving and intimate, you'll feel closer to God—and your relationship with Him will bloom. But if your prayer is angry, toxic, or otherwise low on love, the relationship suffers.

**Of course, you don't always have to be cheerful when you pray.** It's okay to share your sorrows as well as your joys with God. God will cry with you and comfort you. But don't bring God a chronically negative and complaining spirit.

**Depend on God.** It's right to depend on God as your refuge and strength, but not to *always* or *only* make requests. Though God is the ultimate Source of all we need, God helps those who help themselves. So don't ask Him for things *instead of* taking constructive steps and making good use of what you've been given.

**Accept the nearness of God.** God is here, in your own heart, not far away. But how can you have a good conversation with God if you think He's not here? Have you ever had a friend confide in you, "I have no one to talk to. Nobody listens to me!" You probably felt, "Wait! I'm here listening to you right now! Don't you see?" Likewise, if we don't embrace God's immediate Presence, we won't recognize and receive the love, blessings, and guidance He wants to give us.

*As you know, prayer is not merely a memorized set of words. It can be more—SO MUCH more. It's an intimate conversation with God, something to enjoy and take comfort in. So come boldly and honestly to God, share your heart with Him, and love Him—and He WILL respond.*