

**Suggested Interview Questions for
A Praying Life
By Paul Miller**

“All of Jesus’ teaching on prayer in the Gospels can be summarized with one word: *ask*. His greatest concern is that our failure or reluctance to ask keeps us distant from God. But that is not the only reason he tells us to ask anything. God wants to give us good gifts. He loves to give.”

“I do not understand prayer. Prayer is deeply personal and deeply mysterious. Adults try to figure out causation. Little children don’t. They just ask.”

--excerpted from *A Praying Life*

- Your latest book is on the topic of prayer. Who did you write this for—and why now?
- You share many stories about your family throughout this book. How does family—and parenting—contribute to a life of prayer?
- You write that all of Jesus’ teachings on prayer can be summarized in one word: *ask*. Is it really as simple as that?
- Explain why you say we might need to start worrying before we can pray honestly.
- Why do you believe “American culture is the hardest place in the world to learn to pray”?
- How does America’s spirit of cynicism undermine the attitude of childlike trust?
- Some may feel they are being naïvely optimistic by expecting God to answer their prayers. Why do you describe the praying life as “cautious optimism” rather than “naïve optimism”?
- You say that you learned to pray through suffering. Is suffering a requirement for a strong prayer life?
- Sometimes it seems that God is simply not listening to our prayers. You call this “Life in the Desert.” Can you explain what you mean by that description?
- The way you address “unanswered prayer” or “God’s silence” will be new to many people. Share how you view prayer as watching God’s story unfold in our lives.
- Your book concludes with some practical tools for developing a life of prayer. Can you describe how you make use of prayer cards and prayer journals in your own life?

Guest: Paul Miller, author and founder of seeJesus.net

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