**WHY DO *YOU* PRAY?**

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As a spiritual exercise, try making a list of reasons why you pray. Be careful not to confuse WHY you pray with WHAT you pray for. Here are a few listings of WHY I pray; perhaps you can think of others and add them to this list:

 **I PRAY**

1. Because I love God, and because I realize that He first loved me; though by nature I am sinful.
2. Because God sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ; Who by His death on the Cross, made the atonement
 for my sins, and thus re-established friendship (reconciled me) with God, and I need to feel His love
 for me.
3. Because I am grateful for the life God has given me; for He created man in His image, for His joy and pleasure,
 and I have an exultant feeling within me, for I carry His breath in my body, and I feel His Eye watching
 over me and my loved ones.
4. Because I need guidance; I pray for Jesus to hold me by His hand and become conscious of His presence.
5. Because I have learned what prayer can do. Not only because I was taught to pray; but how it can change
 people and conditions and overcome weakness and sickness in both body, mind and soul.
6. Because the Lord Jesus Christ can heal through prayer, when sickness or illness overtakes me or any member
 of my family, or congregation member or acquaintance or fellow-traveler.
7. Because I need to remain near to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and need the assurance of His constant
 guidance to keep me from slipping or becoming weak in the faith, that I not become vulnerable to the
 evil promptings, designs, deceptions or temptations of satan.
8. Because I need help in loving everyone I come in contact with, even though they may appear unattractive or
 repulsive or clumsy.
9. Because I often hunger to come close to God through my Savior Jesus Christ, and to talk to Him graciously and
 with confidence on a personal plane.
10. Because I am helpless and can be nothing without my Lord Jesus Christ at my side to help me and sustain me,
 and be a good example to others who are weak in the Faith, or who are in darkness, or groping, or
 straying, or who are seeking the truth and need assistance, because the world is in such desperate
 need to understand God’s Power, which the Lord offers to all, but is unused, and which is far greater
 than man’s power.
11. Because it is my duty to talk to my Lord and Master Jesus Christ graciously, that the Power of the Holy Spirit
 may continue to abide with me and the gift of revelation may be dispensed unceasingly to His people
 in the True Faith, and to all who seek the Truth.
12. Because the Lord Jesus Christ has implanted a seed of faith for righteousness in my heart, and my desire is to
 be like Jesus (hating sin and despising all worldliness).
13. Because I realize that God’s Love flows into my heart unceasingly and immeasurable, since He adopted me in
 Baptism as His child, and He is my loving kind Father and does not forsake me and is ever faithful.
14. Because in Baptism He has written my name in His Book of Life and made me a citizen of the Kingdom of
 Heaven.
15. Because as His child, I am an heir of the riches of the Heavenly Kingdom, recorded in the New Testament of His
 Blood, which became effective on the Day of His death on the Cross of Calvary.
16. Because Jesus Christ made it possible for me (and everyone that believes) to be reconciled to Him by partaking
 of His true Body and Blood in Holy Communion, when He accepts me as His worthy guest at His Holy
 Table.
17. Because He preserved for me and for ALL Mankind, a most wonderful heritage – the Holy Bible, which is the
 Word of God – thru all ages and centuries.