

Title: “Wishing vs. Praying”

Scripture:

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

— Philippians 4:6 (KJV)

Sermon:

There’s a big difference between *wishing* and *praying*.

A *wish* is a hope tossed into the air — it depends on chance.

A *prayer*, on the other hand, is a request laid before the throne of God — it depends on faith.

When we wish, we speak to the wind.

When we pray, we speak to the One who *commands* the wind.

Wishing might make us feel momentarily hopeful, but praying changes things — starting with *us*.

The Bible never says, “Wish without ceasing,” but it *does* say, “*Pray without ceasing.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

God invites us into a real relationship — not with luck or fate, but with a living, listening Father.

Story:

A little girl once sat by her window every night, looking up at the stars and *wishing* for a new doll.

Her mother watched this for weeks. One evening, she came in and said gently,

“Honey, have you told Jesus what you want?”

The girl frowned. “No, Mama. I just *wish* He knew.”

So that night, she folded her hands and prayed for the first time, “Dear Jesus,

I'd really like a new doll — but if not, that's okay. I know You love me.”

A few days later, a neighbor stopped by with a bag of outgrown toys from her daughter — and right on top was a beautiful doll.

The little girl ran to her mother and said, “Mama! My *wish* didn't come true — my *prayer* did!”

Closing Thought:

Wishing is talking about our desires.

Praying is trusting God with them.

When you pray, you aren't hoping in the stars — you're speaking to the One who made them.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.”

— 1 John 5:14 (KJV)
