

Question 13: Why is prayer connected to doctrine?

Short answer

Prayer is connected to doctrine because we pray based on who we believe God is. If we know God well from the Bible, we pray better: with trust, reverence, and truth.

Explanation

Doctrine means “teaching” about God. Prayer means “speaking with God.” These two go together, because you cannot speak well with someone if you don’t know who they are.

If our idea of God is wrong, our prayer changes too:

- If I think God is distant and cold, I will pray little or with fear.
- If I think God is like a “genie in a lamp,” I will pray only to get things.
- If I think God does not forgive, I will feel ashamed and hide.

But when doctrine is biblical, prayer becomes more true:

- If I know God is a good Father, I come near with confidence.
- If I know Jesus opened the way for me, I don’t give up when I have failed.
- If I know the Holy Spirit helps me, I can pray even when I don’t know what words to say.

Also, prayer is not only “asking”: it is also thanking, confessing, worshiping, and learning to love God. And doctrine teaches us exactly what to worship, what to ask for, and how to trust God’s promises.

Reference verses

- **Hebrews 4:16** — “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence...”
- **1 John 5:14** — “If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

In simple words

We pray better when we know God better. Doctrine teaches us who God is and what He promises. So we don’t pray “randomly,” but with trust and truth: knowing that God listens and that Jesus has opened the way for us to speak with Him.