Jonathan Edwards On Prayer

“With respect to God, prayer is but a sensible acknowledgement of our dependence on Him to His glory. As He hath made all things for His own glory, so He will be glorified and acknowledge by His creatures; and it is fit that He should require this of those who would be his subjects of His mercy, it is a suitable acknowledgement of our dependence on the power and mercy of God for that which we need, and but a suitable honor paid to the great Author and Fountain of all good.

With respect to ourselves, God requires prayer of us, because it tends to prepare us for its reception. Fervent prayer in many ways tends to prepare the heart. Hereby is excited a sense of our need, whereby the mind is more prepared to prize the mercy we seek. Our prayer to God may excite in us a suitable sense and consideration of our dependence on God for the mercy we ask, and a suitable exercise of faith in God’s sufficiency, so that we may be prepared to glorify His name when the mercy is received.”