

Prayer

Why Does God Want Me To Communicate With Him?

There are two basic elements of spiritual survival for our new man in Christ: the Word of God and prayer. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you, and when you pray, you speak to God. Therefore, a Christian's spiritual growth is dependent upon a consistent prayer life and personal time in the word of God. Prayer gives you the ability to communicate directly with God. That is an obvious statement, but the reasons for your communication with God must also be understood. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of a proper prayer life so these lines of communication can be open and effective.

- I Prayer produces a change in YOU first and foremost.
 - A Prayer gives you peace of heart and mind.
Philippians 4:6-7, I Peter 5:6-7
 - B The expression, "Prayer changes things" is not always accurate. Sometimes prayer may not change a situation or circumstance because of a greater principle of God, but a proper prayer life will ALWAYS produce a change in you.
II Corinthians 12:7-10
 - C Prayer conforms you to the will of God. It does not conform God to yours.
Matthew 26:36-42, Colossians 1:9

For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;
Colossians 1:19

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

Prayer draws you close to God so he can prove his sufficiency for every need.
II Corinthians 3:5

God knows exactly what you need even before you ask.
Matthew 6:8

God allows those needs to come into your life for a specific reason - so he can draw you to him to meet the need.

Psalm 50:15, Philippians 4:19

Even though God knows your needs before you ask, he still wants you to “let your requests be made known”. When you ask God to supply your needs instead of trusting yourself, he is able to prove his love for you.

Philippians 4:6

- II Prayer is a priority in your life. It must be a daily lifestyle rather than an occasional event.
- A You must recognize that you have needs in your life that only God can meet. It is dangerous to think that you have need of nothing.
Revelation 3:16-17
 - B You must develop a consistent prayer attitude where your FIRST response is to go to God in prayer, both in difficult times as well as good. Do not adopt the attitude of the old expression, “When all else fails, pray...” You should not wait until things fail before you go to God in prayer.
Luke 18:1, I Thessalonians 5:17
 - C God expects a thankful heart in every circumstance of life, including and especially the difficult times.
I Thessalonians 5:18, Colossians 3:15-17, I Corinthians 15:57
 - D Many Bible characters demonstrate this consistent prayer lifestyle.
 - 1 Nehemiah prayed instantly when he had a need in his life.
Nehemiah 1:4, 2:4
 - 2 Daniel continued praying even when a “law” was passed against it.
Daniel 6:4-10
 - 3 David maintained a prayer lifestyle at all times of the day.
Psalm 5:3, 55:17, 119:62
- III Bible principles governing prayer are more important than methods of prayer.
- A Realize you have DIRECT access to God personally and at all times. You do not need to go through any other person to talk to God.
I Timothy 2:5, Ephesians 2:18
 - B Talk to the Lord as a friend.
John 15:13-14, Exodus 33:11

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

- C Don't repeat the same words over and over. Prayers that are written out by others for you do not allow YOU to communicate freely with your friend and Father.
Matthew 6:7
- D Always focus on maintaining a proper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are certain things that can hinder your prayers.
- 1 Unconfessed sin.
Psalm 66:18-20, Isaiah 59:1-2
 - 2 Insensitivity to the word of God.
Proverbs 28:9
 - 3 An unforgiving spirit.
Matthew 6:14-15
 - 4 Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others).
I Peter 3:7, Colossians 3:19
 - 5 Not asking.
James 4:2
 - 6 Asking with selfish or other wrong motives.
James 4:3, Proverbs 21:13
- E Allow the Holy Spirit to intercede for you in prayer. NOTE: This is NOT the Holy Spirit "interpreting" your prayer so God can understand it. God knows what you pray! This is allowing the Holy Spirit to "interpret" for you to conform you to God's will.
Romans 8:26-27
- F Be confident in prayer. God wants to answer prayers that are according to his will.
I John 5:14-15, Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 3:20-21

IV The Bible classifies four types of prayer in I Timothy 2:1.

- A Supplications - urgent requests. This is when you seek to discover God's plan in a specific matter for your personal life.
II Corinthians 12:7-10, Matthew 26:36-46 along with Hebrews 5:7, Psalm 86:6-7
- B Prayers - Regular communication with God which is based in his word. God answers prayers that are according to his will, which is found in the Bible. Therefore, general prayers not based upon the word of God tend to be vague and unanswered.
Psalm 145:18-19

*I exhort therefore,
that, first of all,
supplications,
prayers,
intercessions, and
giving of thanks, be
made for all men;
1 Timothy 2:1*

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Romans 1:9

- C Intercessions - prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and make you sensitive to the needs of others.
 - 1 Paul prayed for others continually, and requested prayer many times.
Hebrews 13:18, Romans 1:9, Ephesians 6:18-20
 - 2 Prayers of intercession are beneficial for you as well as those you pray for.
Colossians 4:12, Job 42:10, I Samuel 12:23
- D Giving of thanks - appreciation for God and his blessings. A proper prayer begins with a thankful heart toward God.
Psalm 100:4
- V Make your prayer life personal and individual.
 - A Keeping a “prayer journal” is a good practice to develop. The style and form should be yours. God wants a personal relationship with YOU as an individual.
 - B Keeping a journal will help you remember to pray and what to pray for. This will help your prayer life to be more consistent. Also, keeping a list of answered prayers will reinforce your faith in God’s ability to answer your prayers.

Basic questions you may be asking:

Does God answer all my prayers?

Yes, but not always the way you want or at the time you expect. As you learned in Lesson 1, God is your Heavenly Father, and all his ways are perfect. Children should not be granted every request they make. There will be times when in God’s infinite wisdom, the best answer to prayer will be “NO” or “NOT YET”. In those times, simply trust God to have your best interests at heart. (Remember, patience is a fruit of the Spirit!)

If prayer is personal, should I always pray alone?

Not always. Praying with others is as important as praying for others. Families should pray together, and church families should also.
Acts 12:12, 20:36, 21:5

Praying together produces a unity of heart through the Holy Spirit.
Acts 4:24, Matthew 18:20, Philippians 2:1-2

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

