

The Importance of Prayer

I was watching TV one afternoon and watched a show I watched regularly. It was an episode that was involved with the issue of prayer. This couple was at the market looking to get some food and ran into the preacher of the church they were supposed to be attending. They were talking and then the next day decided to go to services. During the service they were having prayer and the members were praying about different things. The wife decided to pray for a new pair of shoes. The same day she went shopping and her shoes were on sale at half price. The same day the husband, after realizing this, prayed that his team would win the football game. Then they visited the market and wanted the last of some fish. There was someone in front of them that was looking at the same fish, and they prayed they could get the fish. The person in front of them got something else and then the next day the preacher the one who got the other fish and was in front of them got sick and missed services. The guilt on their face was it. They realized that they may have done something that could have been very wrong.

Although this was all done in a comedic fashion the thought behind it is true. There are many who have this idea. If they want something materialistic, they will ask God through prayer. Many try for money, vehicles, houses, etc. It is sad to see that some think that God will give them such things. Is this what we need to be using prayer for?

Prayer is our way that we talk to God. Jesus in fact gave us a model prayer that we can go by in using it as a **model** for our prayer when we go to God in prayer (**Matthew 6:9-15**). We are to give the honor and glory back to God. We are to show our appreciation and thank God for all the many blessings both spiritual and earthly blessings. We are to also pray for strength. We need strength to overcome temptation. Satan constantly tries to catch us at our weakest moment to give into temptation which gives birth to sin (**James 1:12-15**) and leads to eternal death which is the ultimate doom.

There are many things to pray for. For instance, we are to pray for others. We pray for those that may be sick physically and spiritually (**James 5:13-15**). We are to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, and we can help through prayer (**Romans 12:15**). The prayer of faith will go such a long way and helps. It shows that we care and we share with others and try to help with the burden others may bear. We realize the care God has for us (**1 Peter 5:7**)

We are to bring our confession through prayer (**James 5:16**). We are to pray and to prove our belief that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. We pray that Christ has given us hope of eternal life by giving his life on the cross (**Hebrews 9:23-28**). We confess with our own mouths (**Romans 10:9-10**) that Jesus is the Son of God and we thank God for this grace that we did not deserve.

Prayer is taken for granted in many ways. It is sad to even think that many do not take the opportunity to pray. As a child growing up when we sat down at the table before we ate, we prayed. Then it was time for bed we would pray before going to sleep. We even prayed at times when we first woke up. It is important to instill this mindset in both the young and old. We cannot pray enough to God. There are always opportunities to go to God in prayer. Prayer is important. We give the praise, honor, and glory back to God. We also thank God for all the many blessings that we have been given.

Are we taking advantage of prayer?! Go to God for the good and bad! Turn to God and He will not turn away (**James 4:8**). Go to God in prayer and he will give us His care (**I Peter 5:7**).

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