

STAY PRAYED UP

WHY WE PRAY & HOW TO DO IT EFFECTIVELY



PRAYER IS PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

- REQUESTS/PETITION
- THANKSGIVING, ADORATION & PRAISE
- CONFESSION
- LISTENING AS GOD COMMUNICATES TO US

PRAYER IS NOT JUST A MEANS FOR GOD TO FIND OUT WHAT WE WANT/NEED

- MATTHEW 6:8 "YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU ASK HIM."

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

- PRAYER IS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR TRUST IN GOD
- WE ARE TO PRAY WITH FAITH (DEPENDENCE ON GOD)

GOD DELIGHTS IN BEING TRUSTED BY HIS PEOPLE. WHEN WE PRAY IN HUMBLE DEPENDENCE, WE INDICATE THAT WE ARE CONVINCED OF GOD'S WISDOM, LOVE, GOODNESS & POWER; **NOT OUR OWN!**

- OUR PRAYERS INDICATE OUR FEELINGS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD GOD; OR HOW WE VIEW HIM.

"OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN" (MATT. 6:9)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD IS LOVING, WISE, AND THAT HE IS IN HEAVEN. HE RULES OVER ALL FROM HIS THRONE.

(LUKE 11:9-13) WHEN WE PRAY TO GOD, DO WE TRUST HIM AS A LOVING, ALL-POWERFUL FATHER? TRUST=DEEPER FELLOWSHIP. GOD LOVES US AND DELIGHTS IN OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.

- PRAYER ALLOWS US TO BE INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES OF ETERNAL IMPORTANCE.

THAT GOD (THE CREATOR) WOULD ALLOW US (THE CREATURES) TO HELP ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM THROUGH PRAYER SHOULD LEAD US TO EVEN MORE PRAISE TO GOD AND BRING US INTO EVEN DEEPER FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, WHICH IS WHAT HE DELIGHTS IN.

- PRAYER CHANGES THE WAY GOD ACTS

JAMES 4:2 "YOU DO NOT HAVE, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT ASK."

1 JOHN 1:9 "IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST, AND WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS..."

LUKE 11:9-10 (ASK, SEEK, KNOCK)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOSES & GOD; ISRAEL & GOD = WE PRAY; GOD RESPONDS

- EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF JESUS, OUR MEDIATOR

1 TIM 2:5 "THERE IS ONE GOD, AND THERE IS ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS"

BECAUSE OF OUR SIN, WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO ENTER GOD'S HOLY PRESENCE. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN APPROACH HIM IS "IN JESUS' NAME". CHRIST IS OUR HIGH PRIEST (HEB 10:1-4). WE NO LONGER NEED A PRIEST TO APPROACH GOD ON OUR BEHALF. BECAUSE WE ARE COVERED BY CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, WE CAN APPROACH GOD.

JOHN 14:13-14 "WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT, THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON; IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT."

SO WHY DOESN'T EVERY PRAYER "COME TRUE" WHEN WE SAY "IN JESUS' NAME"?

WHEN WE PRAY "IN JESUS' NAME", WE HAVE TO HAVE A CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THAT MEANS. TO DO ANYTHING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME MEANS YOU DO IT ON THAT PERSON'S AUTHORITY. WHEN THE APOSTLES HEALED PEOPLE, CAST OUT DEMONS, ETC., THOSE THINGS HAPPENED BECAUSE JESUS AUTHORIZED, OR WILLED, THEM TO HAPPEN, NOT BECAUSE THEY SAID "IN THE NAME OF JESUS" WHEN WE PRAY "IN JESUS' NAME", IT IS AS IF WE ARE SAYING "FATHER, IF THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF JESUS, THEN LET IT BE."

IN SCRIPTURE, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PRAYERS ARE DIRECTED TO THE FATHER. JESUS ALWAYS PRAYED TO THE FATHER (OBVIOUSLY). THERE ARE A FEW INSTANCES OF PEOPLE PRAYING TO JESUS (STEPHEN PRAYED "JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT") THERE ARE NO RECORDED PRAYERS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. IS IT APPROPRIATE TO PRAY TO JESUS OR TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

TO SAY THAT WE CAN'T PRAY TO JESUS OR THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO SAY THAT WE CAN'T RELATE TO THEM PERSONALLY. IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO PRAY TO ANY MEMBER OF THE TRINITY AS LONG AS WE ARE ADDRESSING THEM AS IT RELATES TO THEIR ROLE AS PART OF THE TRINITY. YOU COULD PRAY TO ANYTHING IF THAT THING HAD THE AUTHORITY TO ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR PRAYER...THE PROBLEM IS, NOTHING ELSE HAS THE AUTHORITY. UNDERSTANDING THE ROLES OF THE TRINITY WILL HELP US GROW IN OUR PRAYER LIFE.

ROMANS 8:26-27 "LIKEWISE THE SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS; FOR WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY AS WE OUGHT, BUT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US WITH SIGHS TOO DEEP FOR WORDS. AND HE WHO SEARCHES THE HEARTS OF MEN KNOWS WHAT IS THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT

INTERCEDES FOR THE SAINTS ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD." NOT THAT THE SPIRIT PRAYS INSTEAD OF US, BUT THE SPIRIT EXPRESSES OUR DESIRES AND GROANS WITH US TO MAKE OUR PRAYERS EFFECTIVE.

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MINISTRIES