

Prayer – Talking to God

Prayer is a privilege.

Imagine meeting your best friend for coffee at your favourite cafe. Your friend knows everything about you. You can count on your friend being exactly where he says he will be. Anytime you need him, you can call and he won't be upset with you.

He is willing to listen and responds with love and concern.

That is just like prayer. The only difference is that your best friend is God.

God is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He knows everything you ever did and He still loves you! He knows your future too. He has the best plans for your life. He cares for you so much that He gave His Son so that you could be with Him forever. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

You can talk to Him about anything that concerns you. Tell Him your desires and passions. Share your concerns for your loved ones. Talk out your fears with Him.

Communicate to God what is inside you without fear.

Prayer – What do I say?

Prayer may be accomplished in many ways. The best way is to be natural, just as if you were in the room with Him. He is very anxious to hear every word you say. You can say whatever is on your heart. He'll even listen to your anger and sadness.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught the disciples a pattern for prayer. "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

Prayer – Why Pray?

Why is prayer important? If God already knows all about you and knows all that He has written, why should you pray? It's because God created us to have free will. He wants us to come to Him willingly and not as robotic creations. He has given us a mind to make decisions and the most important decision is about eternity. Even though He knows the future, we don't know the future choices we will make. It's important to live by His guidance to make the right choices.

In the Bible, you will find kings, prophets, and ordinary people like you and me, averted destruction by praying to God. One prayer stopped the sun, one prayed fire down from heaven, one gained fifteen years to his own life, and one prayer even saved a whole city.

These people prayed intensely to the God who answers prayer.

When you pray, God listens to your cries. When you don't pray, God feels left out of your life. "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9b). As you pray consistently, you are affirming the existence of God in your life. You are building your faith as you see God's hand do His mighty work on your behalf just because you asked.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8).