



Inner Growth - Prayer

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

Psalms 61:1

Personal - Psalms 91:1

Read - Hebrews 4:12

Answer - Jeremiah 33:3

Yield - Daniel 3:28

Eyes/Ears - 2 Chronicles 6:40, 7:15,
Psalms 34:15, 1 Peter 3:12

Rebuke - Titus 2:15

What is prayer? Prayer is pleading to the living God who gave believers or followers forth His only Son, Jesus Christ, upon receiving salvation from the heart through acceptance that lives inside them. This act of love from the Father allows His people to send their prayers to Him. Prayer builds the relationship with God: the more time spent in prayer, the closer the bond. Prayer is known to many as an appeal that is a request for help.

Others look at prayer as a plea where they are begging for something. The majority know it is a service: but it depends on what the Christian has in mind.

However, true believers believe it is a commitment to serve and worship. The chance for God's people to express themselves to the God of love. The Holy One, the living Father that lives inside of His people through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Prayer is the most effective under the conditions previously mentioned above. However, anyone can send a word to God: the only difference is the response because He knows the heart of every man and woman. Those who mean well, He can tell. Still, for those with bad intentions, God already understands what they are up to before it happens. Prayer is the key to opening the door to the heart of God.

Prayer from a Biblical outlook is a cry to God. After all, it is a close relationship for believers to have with the Father: like a Dad to a child.

There is a song from the Scripture made from the theme verse:

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer,

From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee

when my heart is overwhelmed lead me to the rock that is higher than I

that is higher than I

For thou hast been a shelter for me,

and a strong tower from the enemy.

*when my heart is overwhelmed
lead me to the rock that is higher
than I*

that is higher than I

The song explains how believers should approach God. For He is our Father, to call out to Him like a child would when they do not know exactly where He is when not in view. To pour out what is inside our hearts, bothering us at that moment. To the Father and embrace and tell Him what is dwelling on our minds. To keep us from going to those that might lead us in the wrong direction or making a bad decision that would not be in our good interests.

Prayer is personal from the heart. For the believer, prayer should be all that is on the heart that verbally needs to come out. God wants anyone who calls upon Him to express what is inside. To know how we feel with whatever is in the heart at that moment: things weighing on our minds. Situations that be bothering us that are upcoming, we should share with Him.

Three kinds of personal prayer touch the heart of God, especially when it is heartfelt: prayer for others to help or save, prayer to help in a situation, or a prayer of adoration towards Him. The importance of a believer's prayer toward others is their heart's desire to do this without any

strings attached: not thinking or expecting anything in return other than the results coming through for them. A prayer for help in a situation is good but more effective when on behalf of someone else's circumstance: because it demonstrates love, which means taking time to aid others than yourself. An unbeliever's prayer from the heart is possible. The only difference for believers is knowing God and His Word: having the Holy presence that associates with serving Him separates from the rest.

The third type is admiration, reverence, and devotion towards God. This kind of prayer separates from the other two types because it involves believers giving to God and not Him giving to us. Prayer for a believer is powerful using the three methods because of the activity afterward in Revelation eight, verses three through five. "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were

voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake." Prayer for others to help or save is the situation for Abraham, the men were leaving, and they looked towards the direction of Sodom: Abraham stood before the Lord. In Genesis eighteen, verses twenty-two through thirty-three, he pleads for Sodom. God knows the heart of His creation and anticipates the prayer of Abraham, as evidenced in verses seventeen through twenty-one. In this manner, God expresses himself after the conduct of men, with deliberation. Psalms twenty-five, verse four, "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him. Those by faith who live a life of communion with God cannot but know more of his mind than other people. They have a better insight into what is present and a better foresight of what is to come. To help in a situation is an example of Elijah's prayer that caused the drought in Israel. At the beginning of First Kings chapter seventeen, Elijah stops the rain through the Mighty God he serves. "And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." In the New Testament, James five, verses sixteen through

eighteen, gives the full details. The prayer is unique in itself according to this situation. Elijah, who represents himself as a servant of God, openly speaks with authority and stands before Ahab boldly in faith, giving his word while acknowledging the Creator and declaring what will happen.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed that it would not rain did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James five, verses sixteen through eighteen, proves if God be with us, who can be against us, as in Romans eight, verse thirty-one.

The last one is more passionate about the Father than needing things from Him. Mary, in Luke one, verses forty-six to fifty-five, is an expression from her to God which some parts have become a song. She expresses gratitude for allowing her to have something special happen through the Holy Spirit and describes how thankful she is in prayer, which was more than a simple thank you. Even though Mary went through a lot of adversity in this experience, she responded to God from her heart.

Prayer from reading the scriptures. Reciting or meditating

on verses from the Bible is the best way because His Word is God. He honors the Word above His name, as in Psalms one hundred and thirty-eight, verse two. Many people seldom read the Word of God because of unbelief. Church-goers would like to hear from the pastor instead of reading or studying it themselves. John, verse one sums up the significance of the Word of God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

How are we to know God and say a prayer for Him to respond if we do not even know Him through His Holy Word? Praying the scriptures is significant because it is God's Word through His servants by the Holy Spirit. However, if believers handle the Word of God sparingly, then the possibility of prayer toward God's will may be unlikely. How do we get to know someone?

Communication and research to begin a connection.

In Exodus twenty-four, the covenant affirmed by God, Moses wrote the words from the Lord as stated in verse four. Later at the beginning of Deuteronomy four, Moses commands obedience. The importance of daily reading of God's Word is instruction and guidance to help us navigate through life to improve it under the direction of God. Prayerfully reading God's Word is similar to

any manual: if we do not read the information before using it, we will most likely not get the best out of it.

Prayer to a living God is an expectation of receiving an answer. People conversing with family, loved ones, friends, or neighbors, everyone will have questions and concerns that will arise. The significance of getting the answers to move forward with all matters will be the turning point for any situation. For believers, when it involves overcoming spiritual battles to test our faith and commitment to God, an answer from Him separates us from others who do not rely on Him to receive victory. No answer only jeopardizes and potentially leads us to a deeper problem than the current one. The following is part of a gospel song that describes how believers should conduct themselves when waiting on the Lord to receive an answer to prayer.

God answers prayer in the morning,
God answers prayer at noon,
God answers prayer in the evening
So keep your heart in tune.

The difference is the last line in that part of the song. Many people do not keep their hearts in tune while waiting. Praying for something at times for the

answer from God will not be instant and requires patience because He is working out things for our good. Where many fail to sustain is they fail to keep their heart in faith mode and get upset and retaliate with complaints which will delay or even lose out of receiving an answer regarding a matter.

Prayer is yielding to God to open the way. There are very few believers who remain believing throughout their times of ups and downs. Sometimes anxiety from our physical nature will attempt to overwhelm us into drowning out our spiritual devotion to God. Moses had that experience many times in an attempt to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land under the guidance of the Lord. However, the battle with Israelites living in Egypt all those years created so much tension that Moses could not sustain the pressure and lost out on leading the people to the promised land.

Prayer is a challenge for the eyes and ears. What separates the prayer warriors from the prayer sleepers is distraction. Jesus, in the agony of Gethsemane in Mark fourteen, verses thirty-two through thirty-eight, left some of the disciples to go and pray except Peter, James, and John. However, when Jesus returned with the others, he asked the rest of them a question. In verse

thirty-seven, Simon was sleeping. Could you not watch one hour? Sleeping is the norm for some people saved and not have an established prayer life. The tendency to fall into a deep sleep at prayer time tends to show who is leading: the flesh is still in first while the spirit is second. Not that people plan it that way, but it is currently the life they lead. The initial test is the eyes and ears. Jesus mentions the one hour. The first sixty minutes are to overcome the flesh that will tend to wrestle against the spirit: that is what is happening. After a few attempts, the physical nature will give, and the spiritual side will take over, and one hour will be no problem during prayer time. However, it is the desire to commit time to overcome the first hour, the decision to make time is up to us.

Prayer is to rebuke. Believers have a need to watch at all times that we do remove all things that would hinder our progress with God, our finances, our potential in achieving something good. The word "rebuke" properly denotes to disapprove. An example how to use the name of Jesus is to bind against anything that would try to get in the way of the will of God for you to achieve and receive. "Lord, I bind that evil spirit or demon, or that situation and turn it for good in the name of Jesus." Quoting God's Word is even

better. Bottom half of Matthew six, verse nineteen, "whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Prayer is a service to God, to others, and ourselves. Prayer is the heartfelt connection to God through our words and how we present ourselves to Him.

Whatever the case or situation, we come as we would do with significant others with sincerity, love and understanding.