



Inner Growth - Prayer 3

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16

Praise - Psalms 100:4

Read - Hebrews 4:12

Area - Matthew 6:6

Yell -Psalms 66:1, 100:1

Enthusiastic - 2 Kings 10:16

Rest - Hebrews 4:11

The definition of prayer has several meanings. A reverent petition made to God, a god, or another object of worship. The act of making a reverent petition to God, a god, or another object of worship. An act of communion with God, a god, or another object of worship, such as in devotion, confession, praise, or thanksgiving. These interpretations are general and are, in reality, of how people would approach prayer. However, what is the true meaning of prayer?

Prayer is a tool to communicate. When we talk to someone, our focus is on the person. We

interact with them by presenting our thoughts and feelings at that time. However, we endeavor to listen to the feedback in return as well.

When a miracle happens or an answer to prayer for someone in a unique fashion, the public tends to acknowledge the experience as the power of prayer. The power of prayer is a phrase many describe as the result of a miraculous experience a person may have received or encountered. The truth is the power of prayer does not derive from the words we communicate to God or putting messages together nicely, talking fancy or pretty. However, the answer to prayer is from grace, mercy, and love of God that He provides because He sees the condition of our hearts.

Prayer is confession. God is Holy, and we, as humans, are not. We were born in sin and shaped by it. So how could we come before a Mighty God with our list of things we want and expect to receive? All people, believers, and unbelievers, need to cleanse themselves daily before communicating to the Creator of everything, which starts with the heart.

Secondly, if we have any issues with anyone, such as disagreement, a verbal fight, or anything negative or ungodly, we should address them if possible. Why? Prayer to God is personal.

He knows and sees all the situations we encounter. The main thing is to have a clear conscience of anything when we address God in prayer: nothing should be in the back of our mind, but the Holy One should have our full attention.

On the other hand, if there is an issue with someone and unable to resolve the matter in conversation, then believers should address the situation to God in prayer. The point, especially for a believer, is for God to see the effort on our part. God is love, and love gives.

Therefore, when we attempt to do the right thing in the eyes of the Holy One, it will indicate to Him we are trying to live righteously before Him. When we do that, there is no room for the accuser, the devil, or anyone to cast blame on something associated with us. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

This part of the theme verse means not any prayer from just anyone, not the appeal of a profane sinner, nor hypocrites and formal professors: but of the righteous person, justified by the righteousness of Christ, and has the truth of grace in them, and lives soberly and righteously. For the right doing, a person often designs a good character, a gracious being, someone sincere and upright, as the example of Job.

There are many ingredients in the approach to the Mighty God. First, God watches our hearts because He can see right through us. God is light, Holy, and sinless.

Therefore, how could we come before God in a sinful state that is dark and contaminated with the things of the world? Remember, when His Son, Jesus Christ, made atonement for our sins on the cross, He could not look because of sin.

Prayer is about praise. Entering the gates with thanksgiving and the courts praising refers to the house of the Lord. The presence of God is there. When we come before the Kings of kings and the Lord of lords, His existence should be there, too. How could a servant of God come before their Father to communicate with no enthusiasm?

An example is when a child goes to either parent. They usually do not approach them sadly or neutrally. Commonly, the child will pleasantly enter toward their parents, especially if they need help or desire something they want. How should believers approach their Heavenly Father any differently?

Prayer is reading the Word of God. The Bible contains the scriptures manifested through the servants of God by the Holy Spirit. Surprisingly, the perspective of some church people is that many do not spend

enough time reading the Good News. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, used the scriptures to counter the temptation in the wilderness in Matthew chapter four. In verses four and seven, the tempter gives suggestive ideas to the Messiah and the responses in both situations: He begins with "It is written," then proceeds to use the verse after to rebuke the enemy.

The Word of God will equip a believer during moments of temptation. A situation may arise on any given day, and verses from the Bible will come in handy. For example, if we face a financial crisis, during prayer, we could remind the Lord, "You said in your word, you would rebuke devourer in Malachi three, verse eleven. The devourer is a spirit from the devil that attempts to eat away at finances that may not make sense to us when we suspect to have a certain amount. However, the verse depends on giving our portion to God in the church or helping others.

Prayer is praying in secret to the Father. For the believer, there will be a place where they spend considerable time daily. This activity will occur for the saints of God because a prayer life builds a strong connection with the Lord. A servant or leader of Christ would be able to determine a believer's prayer spot in their home because the presence of

God would resonate there. Similar to the altar in the church, where prayer has been present from the members who have prayed there. Daniel, in the Old Testament, is a man always in prayer. In chapter two, verse nineteen, of that book, God reveals a secret to His servant for the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. In verses twenty through twenty-three, God's servant expresses his appreciation for the revelation. The benefits of praying a lot will allow believers to experience dreams and visions that may occur at any time with God. Prayer, at times, needs to be in the form of a shout. At a sports venue, when a game is going on, like soccer or football, when a player scores, the people watching the game enjoy the experience, and when their team makes a goal, they shout it out. Yey! What a shot! Yey! As believers, we should be far better than a fan at a sporting event cheering a team on. Especially if we experience a victory of overcoming a challenge when our Heavenly Father helps resolve the matter far beyond our expectations. Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus! Praise God! We should express ourselves, shout it out, and celebrate as much as possible. Thank you, Lord! Thank you for getting me the raise when I asked and prayed about it to you! Praise God

for coming through! The truth is believers should be celebrating before it happens, although not manifested yet, which shows faith and trust in the Lord when it happens.

Prayer must be with keen interest or excitement. The verse is about Jehonadab. He must have understood that some further measures were about to be taken against the family and adherents of Ahab. He approved of all that Jehu had done and was willing to give his countenance to further severities. He probably did not know what Jehu designed, but he must have been able to make a tolerably shrewd guess at what was impending.

The question is, what does this have to do with praying with excitement? Not much. The fact that Jehonadab went willingly with some interest without knowing the outcome is the same approach believers should approach the Heavenly Father: Showing enthusiasm, not knowing what the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God, would reveal to us in prayer. On the other hand, if a person comes to talk and spend time with us, and their approach is unmotivated, feeling down, unhappy, and uncertain, would we want them to spend time with us? Prayer is a believer resting in the Lord, knowing He is the caretaker of all things we hope for, with the evidence yet to be revealed until

the appointed time. God has time for everything, including our situation. While believers live until the results come to fruition, we must continue praying and trusting and leave it to Him as though it happened.

Daniel was a man of prayer. When situations arise, whether for him or others, he looks to the Holy One, the God he prays to three times daily, to work things out. Daniel had a situation with the king's decree where the king, through deception, signed, which put Daniel in the den of lions. In verse sixteen, "Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." This king did not eat or drink either, thinking of Daniel. Even though this king put Daniel in the lion's den due to the law that the men orchestrated to stop Daniel from praying to God, the king, in a way, acts as a believer. He gave a word to Daniel, which is faith, before putting him in the den of lions. The king went to the palace and fasted, where he did not eat or drink, nor did the usual thing, but had his mind on Daniel and the situation, which is a form of meditation. The result is God had this man join in support of Daniel. Simultaneously, Daniel was trusting God to take care of him.

What is the true meaning of prayer? Prayer is more than

having a list of things. It should include praise, reading, and having that place where the presence of God dwells. The believer has a joyful countenance before Him and relaxes as He works things out on our behalf.