

DID YOU SAY GOD WANTS TO HAVE A TALK WITH ME?

A Bible Study for the Newly Saved

Today I want to share with you one of the most basic yet powerful aspects of your new Christian life. Prayer.

If you have a Bible, take the time to look up each Scripture. This is important so that you can see the parts before and after the passage that help determine its meaning. If you don't have a Bible, verses are printed in the right column so that you can still answer the questions. If there is not room to write your answers on this sheet, use a separate piece of paper. The left column lists additional Scripture references that apply to the topic being discussed. Look those up if you want more information. Scriptures provided are from the New International Version (NIV).

<p>Matthew 6:25-33 Acts 15:8</p>	<p>What is prayer? According to Spiros Zodhiates, a Greek language expert, original words for prayer used in the New Testament mean "to meet and talk with," and "to call upon God for aid." Prayer is simply getting together with God, speaking with Him about what is on your heart and listening to what is on His heart.</p> <p>Read Matthew 6:8. If the Father knows what we need before we ask, why do we have to ask? Maybe if we look at wrong reasons to pray, we will have a clearer picture of what God's purpose for having us pray is. Read Matthew 6:5-8. This is part of what we call "the Sermon on the Mount." Jesus spoke for three chapters about the attitudes of our hearts as we live our lives on earth.</p> <p>In verse 5, how did He say not to pray? What is not to be our reason for spending time in prayer?</p> <p>Okay, so prayer is not about being a good Christian in front of men.</p> <p>In verse 7, what does Jesus tell us not to do?</p> <p>I don't think God just wants to hear us talk.</p> <p>Now for one answer to our question of why we need to ask, look at verse 6. Picture in your mind doing just what Jesus says in this verse. Now you are alone in a private room in your heart, just you and Father God. What are you going to talk about? What is your attitude going to be as you talk? You see, alone with God, there is nothing you cannot say, nothing that needs to remain hidden. You can share your true thoughts, your questions, your</p>	<p>Matthew 6:5-8 5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.</p> <p>Hebrews 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.</p> <p>Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry</p>
<p>Luke 20:47 Proverbs 15:8 Psalm 38:9</p>		
<p>Matthew 14:23 Matthew 26:36 Mark 1:35 John 17</p>		

pertains to bearing much good fruit.
John 15:16
Heb. 5:7

John 16:23-27

Psalm 5:3
Psalm 55:17
Daniel 6:10
Mark 1:35
Romans 12:12
1 Samuel 1: 10, 13

Colossians 4:12

Matthew 5:44
Matthew 9:38
Matthew 25:41
Luke 21:36
1 Timothy 2:2
1 Samuel 12:23

Prayers that Paul said for believers:
Ephesians 1:15-21
Ephesians 3:14-19
Philippians. 1:9-11
Colossians. 1:9-12
2
Thessalonians 1:11-12
Philemon 1:4-6

John 15:7

1 John 5:14-15

When Jesus says, “ask in my name,” He does not mean tag the words “in the name of Jesus” onto the end of each prayer. There is nothing wrong with that phrase if you understand what you are saying. Names in the Bible are very significant. They speak of a person’s character qualities, who the person was on the inside. What we ask from God should line up with who Jesus is. If we ask for something that goes against what Jesus taught or lived, we won’t receive it.

1 John 5:14 lays down the condition of asking according to the will of God. How do we know what the will of God is? John 15:7 gives us a key to being able to ask for things that are in agreement with the will of God. What is that key?

On a separate sheet of paper, summarize what you have learned about effective prayer.

When is a good time to pray?

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Ephesians 6:18

Ephesians 6:18 tells us to pray all kinds of prayers. What are some of those prayers according to 1 Timothy 2:1?

Use a dictionary to look up these four types of prayers. Notice how they are different from one another.

Read Ephesians 6:18 again. Also read Philippians 4:6. What are we to pray about?

Ephesians 6:18 also tells us to pray in the Spirit. Read the verse before it, Ephesians 6:17. What is the sword of the Spirit?

One way to wield the sword of the Spirit is through prayer. Anytime you read a Scripture that speaks about your situation, pray it. Speak the words of the Scripture back to God in the

John 14:14

You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Matthew 21:22

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.

John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

1 John 5:14-15

- 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray continually.

Ephesians 6:17-18

- 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1 Timothy 2:1

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone

Philippians 4:6-7

- 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

form of a prayer. There is no surer way to praying the will of God than to pray with His very words.

For one final word of encouragement, look once more at Philippians 4. According to verse 7, what will happen for you as you begin to pray about everything?

Friend in Christ, there is so much more to learn about prayer. In all honesty, the best way to learn about prayer is to experience it. You will discover the most about what prayer is and how it works simply by practicing it. So just do it. Stand, sit, walk, kneel, lay with your face to the ground; whisper, holler, cry, laugh, sing, write—it doesn't matter how or where—just that you pray always, about everything.

Compiled and © by R. McCollam, member of the Community Prison Choir

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