

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Prayer is NOT the answer!!****Prayer is NOT the answer!!, on: 2009/8/2 12:15**

Prayer is NOT the answer!!

Re: Prayer is NOT the answer!! - posted by Yoli (), on: 2009/8/2 12:40

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Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2009/8/2 14:41

Is there something missing in this thread?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2009/8/2 15:07

Theology definetly is not the answer. Christ is and the Spirit of God that leads into all truth. And the method of prayer is how we come into contact with Christ and the Spirit of God.

So therefore yes,

Prayer **is** the answer.

Re: Prayer is NOT the answer!! - posted by enid, on: 2009/8/2 15:52

And the question is...

Re: , on: 2009/8/2 16:37

I threw out this statement because prayer alone is not the answer. We have thousands of religions in the world all claim to "pray" to the true God. They all pray to some deity.

Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was name Abel and the other Cain. Cain offered up his works to God saying, "Look at all these fine veggies that I have wrought for you, I've toiled the ground to produce this bountiful crop. I am not like my brother Abel over there who has nothing to show for his gratitude." Abel on the other hand believed that God sees all and his accomplishments were considered dung, so he offered up what he did not produce, his faith.**

Cain didn't have faith in God. His faith was in his works and what he could produce. But Abel had the faith that was pleasing to God, in that Abel had nothing to offer God but faith and obedience.

Prayer is still not the answer if it's not coupled with faith. Cain prayed but it was not the faith that God desired.

He that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. We have to believe when we pray otherwise our prayer will be that of Cain trying to please God by our much speaking.

There are people that pray and pray and pray and get no where with God. Why? Because there is no faith involved, there is no trust.

**

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Prayer is NOT the answer!!

Re: Prayer is NOT the answer!! - posted by shadyg, on: 2009/8/2 16:48

I see where you are going with this.

I had a professor at Seminary...DS Whitney who said something like this "the most important thing you can do is not pray but rather read your bible. For it's much more important that you hear from God than it is for him to hear from you."

You can read his thoughts yourself in his book "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life."

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/8/2 17:24

Quote:
-----There are people that pray and pray and pray and get no where with God. Why? Because there is no faith involved, there is no trust
.

According to scripture, believers often do not get what they ask for in prayer, not because of lack of faith per se...but because they ask amiss. I have no doubt many people pray fervent prayers with a vibrant faith, believing with all their heart God will answer and satisfy a selfish motive.

All of us are given a measure of faith; Cain had faith as did Abel. When we read the scripture carefully, we find that God rejected *Cain* first and as a result his offering was rejected. It was not Cain's faith or gift that was the problem - it was Cain himself. Something was wrong within, deep in the heart. It's the same principle the Lord gave with a believer going to the altar in good faith with his gift and having it rejected on the basis of not being reconciled with his brother.

Multitudes have faith for all kinds of things, and yet are not right within. Family prayers can also be hindered if husbands and wives are living in discord with each other, irrespective of faith.

Prayer is indeed the answer - the righteous man's prayer.

Re: , on: 2009/8/2 18:11

Quote:
-----Prayer is indeed the answer - the righteous man's prayer.

I am thankful for your discreet answer. The prayer of a righteous man availeth much. What makes a righteous man righteous is faith in the finished work of Christ, his prayers availeth much.

I hope more people will share in this thread because this is an important subject. I remember praying like a machine gun, it was just words shooting off in the air, hoping God will hear me for my much speaking. And there I was doing what was expected of me as a young Pentecostal and praying to an intelligent God. That kind of praying is not the answer. The answer was less talking more listening. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus soaking up the words of our LORD while Martha was running around making sure the Church programs were all ready for that weeks service. Nothing wrong in what Martha was doing, but Jesus did say that Mary hath chosen the best part.

You see, What are my words? "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." God is still speaking today. Jesus said, "He that hath ears to hear let him hear". Hearing is far better than me talking. God knows what I have need of before I even utter a word, but I don't know what God knows before He speaks to me, thus It's more important to hear than it is to speak. If we could just hear one word from God our lives would never be the same. Hearing God is like the red sea parting, there is no question that God hath spoken.

Re: the last comment on this thread - posted by cthom, on: 2009/8/2 18:12

"When we read the scripture carefully, we find that God rejected Cain first and as a result his offering was rejected. It was not Cain's faith or gift that was the problem - it was Cain himself. Something was wrong within, deep in the heart. It's the same principle the Lord gave with a believer going to the altar in good faith with his gift and having it rejected on the basis of not being reconciled with his brother."

Yes, Paul West, I agree. I heard these very same words first from Zac Poonen in a number of his messages - where he also urges people to read the Bible carefully. More recently in his message "A Sacrifice Like A Perfume" (Sermonindex post on You Tube).

Cain also prayed. But God never answered. Whether God answers our prayer or not is the test.
cthom

Re: - posted by ceedub, on: 2009/8/2 18:30

Dan 10:11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.
12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: **for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard**, and I am come for thy words.

Theology and practice?

Encouraging that Daniel is told 'from the first day...!'

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/8/2 18:44

Quote:
-----I hope more people will share in this thread because this is an important subject. I remember praying like a machine gun, it was just words shooting off in the air, hoping God will hear me for my much speaking. And there I was doing what was expected of me as a young Pentecostal and praying to an intelligent God. That kind of praying is not the answer.

I remember a number of years ago praying fervently with faith that God would use me like he used Smith Wigglesworth. I had no idea of what brokenness was, had no inclination of the uncrucified dynamic of self still vibrant within me. I prayed and prayed for the gifts; I wept and beat my hands against the floor in desperation for the Lord of hear my prayer. Make no mistake - I was praying with all the faith I could muster, pleading and reminding God of Jesus' promise: "Anything you ask in My Name, I will do"

I have since learnt a thing or two by the grace of God. Prayer is not just speaking to the Lord as you correctly say - that is easy to do. Just get all stirred up by listening to some music and you can get "in the flow" and the words will just come bubbling out of your mouth. But I have found that *hearing* from God is much more profitable in prayer than speaking in fervency. Mary at the feet of Jesus was not importuning Him and interrupting Him with all sorts of requests and dialogues and questions; the Bible says she was at His feet *listening*.

We should know how to "tell Jesus all of our troubles", and take solace in the fact that God knows what we need even before we tell Him, but more importantly we need to hear what He would tell us and speak into our hearts *after* we've told Him all our problems and requests. We are changed by His Word *entering* our tabernacle, and not by our word leaving. If the Lord were to enter my home tonight incorporeal, I doubt I would ask many questions or beg Him for answers and gifts. I would be at His feet listening to every single Word that came from His mouth concerning me and my walk with God. He is the Master, I am the servant. He is Eternal from above, I am a vapor, fashioned from the dust of the earth. I should let my words be very few!

99% of our dialogue should be listening. All throughout the day we can "pray without ceasing" in our hearts, silent before Him...and, as Poonen says, ceaseless prayer should be as natural as breathing. *Listening* to God, however, is a different thing; it is a skill that must be practiced and learnt - it doesn't come as natural, yet it is indispensable if we are to grow.

I certainly do not speak as one having arrived - but I acknowledge the vital necessity of acquiring this skill. To me, it's like

e finding a pulse in someone's wrist. Once you detect it, you need to be careful not to move the position. Once we begin hearing God speaking into our hearts and transforming us, we should remember where we were spiritually when we first detected it. Invariably, I find these wonderful times coinciding with my conscience being right with God, being right my wife and my neighbor and walking with an inward humility and an honest desire to know God's will for my life - no matter what the cost to self is.

Re: Prayer - posted by JoanM, on: 2009/8/2 19:39

QUOTE: "If we could just hear one word from God our lives would never be the same. Hearing God is like the red sea parting, there is no question that God hath spoken." AMEN TO THAT! Someone asked a question at the Barnsdall conference regarding the difference between hearing God's Word, or from God, and believing/following in obedience and the hearing from God that sounds like what you are speaking about, that settles/changes/finishes everything. **Do you know more about this Deepthinker? Does anyone??**

QUOTE: "I had a professor at Seminary...DS Whitney who said something like this "the most important thing you can do is not pray but rather read your bible. For it's much more important that you hear from God than it is for him to hear from you."

Learning personally the relationship between scripture and prayer and praying what is brought to mind, stands out (Holy Spirit guiding, teaching, inspiring) is like speaking His language. Communication improves. faith grows, and much else.

QUOTE: Living "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." You don't have to pray very long before you learn directly how God changes you (heart, mind, concerns, etc.), as your prayer life continues, grows you up in the communion of prayer.

Thank you Paul. I consider these things as SO important. Found gold to last a lifetime. And probably carry us into eternity.

I just love it! I can not resist posting on this thread a quote from a thread just above this thread on the home page (revelation of God's Word?) QUOTE: "I'm paraphrasing I think Dwight Moody when he was asked which is more important : Reading the scriptures (objective life) or prayer (subjective life). He answered with his own question, "Which is more important to a bird, his right wing or his left wing?" The poster was making a slightly different point, but I like what Moody said.

Re: Ribbon of Blood , on: 2009/8/2 22:52

To Paul West:

Paul posted:

Quote:
----- All of us are given a measure of faith; Cain had faith as did Abel. When we read the scripture carefully, we find that God rejected Cain first and as a result his offering was rejected. It was not Cain's faith or gift that was the problem - it was Cain himself. Something was wrong within, deep in the heart. It's the same principle the Lord gave with a believer going to the altar in good faith with his gift and having it rejected on the basis of not being reconciled with his brother.

Paul, I do agree with your post, but I would hold that what was wrong within Cain, deep in his heart, was his disobedience to the requirements of God. The prophets in the Bible were given revelation and commands from God. These were messages to be preached, heeded and written down. Truths revealed to earlier prophets were building blocks which later prophecies confirmed and upon which they built. From the beginning to the end of God's revelation to mankind, a ribbon of blood runs throughout it. The theme of blood atonement is presented as the answer to sin and the way to salvation, from the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden, to the culmination in the New Testament, when Jesus Christ came as the once and for all sacrifice, to die on the cross for all of mankind.

ADAM & EVE (Genesis 2 and 3)

When God made Adam and Eve, he put them in a perfect garden. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions. Imm

Immediately after eating the fruit, they both realized that they were naked, "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." (Genesis 3:7) **But God didn't see this as adequate. " Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." (Genesis 3:21) Where did he get these from? Can an animal live without his skin? Since we know that sin brought death, it is not fair to reason that animals were killed so that the shame of Adam and Eve could be covered?** God also expelled them from the garden. At this time God told Adam and Eve the consequences of their actions, one of which was physical death. To the serpent, who tempted them, he said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed (Women do not have seed, men have seed); it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

Here God promises that the power of Satan will be crushed through the seed of the woman. How will this happen? Has God given us further instructions concerning this? Yes, he has!

CAIN AND ABEL (Genesis 4)

God begins to reveal the answer when Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to God. In (Genesis 4:3-7) it says, " And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. "

Why did God accept Abel's offering but not Cain's? In God's reply to Cain we find the answer to this question. God had obviously given clear instructions to Cain and Abel concerning what type of sacrifice needed to be offered. Abel brought the correct sacrifice which was an animal from the first-born of the flock. Cain did not bring the correct sacrifice. Cain brought a sacrifice of his own choosing instead of the sacrifice that pleased God. In the Bible it says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.." (Proverbs 14:12) "By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead." (Hebrews 11:4) A sober warning is also given to those who take the way of Cain. Because of his pride, he rejected God's authority and offered an unacceptable sacrifice.

We have learned that mankind has sinned against God and brought him shame by disobeying His commands. His sin must be paid for to satisfy God's righteous anger and uphold his justice. God says, "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4b) and "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) Is sacrifice still required today? Does it still satisfy the righteous anger of God? Is there still a purpose in sacrifice? If so, what are the requirements for sacrifice, and what does it accomplish?

NOAH (Genesis 5:28-9:29)

After many years had passed men became very wicked and mocked God. This grieved God very much. But before God sent the flood upon the earth to destroy mankind, he told Noah,
2. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by SEVENS, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. 3. Of fowls also of the air by SEVENS, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.
(Genesis 7:2-3)

After Noah came out of the ark he sacrificed some of the clean animals to the LORD. "The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: 'Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.'

So we see again that animal sacrifice was a part of God's plan and was pleasing to him when the heart of the worshiper was full of reverence for God.

JOB

Job is described as a righteous man, " There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1) Job offered animal sacrifices to God on behalf of

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Prayer is NOT the answer!!

his sons and daughters, TO SANCTIFY THEM " and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually. “ This was Job's regular custom.” (Job 1:5)

It is clear that this was not simply an offering showing his devotion to God, but that this was done because of a n awareness of sin, and God’s requirement for an animal sacrifice to stay God's just anger against sin.

ABRAHAM (Genesis 12 - 25:12)

One day God told Abraham to go up into the mountain and to sacrifice his son. When they arrived at the place of sacrifice, his son asked him where the sacrifice was. Abraham told him that God would supply the sacrifice. Then he tied his son to the altar. When he was ready to sacrifice him, the angel of the Lord called out to him and told him to stop. Abraham looked and saw a ram caught in the thicket. He took this ram and sacrificed it to the Lord. God had provided a substitute to take the place of the son that was to die. Instead the ram died and the son lived. God had sent a substitute to take the place of the condemned. (Genesis 22).

As a result of Abraham's obedience and trust in God, God promised him, " '....through your offspring all nations on the earth will be blessed....' " (Genesis 22:18) Who is this offspring who God promised would be a blessing to all nations?

What was lacking in Cain? His obedience and trust in God!

Sincerely,

Walter

Re: , on: 2009/8/3 21:20

This thread was going very well until "someone" got off topic. Please stay on topic. Thank you.

Re: Prayer is NOT the answer!! - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/8/4 1:15

Quote:
-----Prayer is NOT the answer!!

Hmmmm . . . how deeply are we thinking here?

If something is not needed from God, then truly, prayer is not the answer.

If you need money, work is the answer.

If you need education, school is the answer.

If you need a good social club, good organization is the answer.

If you need something that man cannot do . . .

Mat 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Mat 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Has it ever occurred to you that perhaps the reason that the phrase "Prayer IS the answer" came into being is that it is usually at the bottom of the list of priorities for most people?

I agree wholeheartedly with much of what has been written in this thread. Many other things can be missing within an individual that can make "fervent" prayer as useless as the reading of prayers that so offended John Bunyan and others th

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Prayer is NOT the answer!!

roughout church history.

If faith is missing, faith must accompany prayer.
If obedience is missing, obedience must accompany prayer.
If listening to God is missing, listening must accompany prayer.

The trouble with most of our watered-down Christianity is that genuine prayer is missing. Most of us have not lived through situations where continuously, ONLY a supernatural act of God will work in that which perplexes us; therefore, prayer ends up taking a lower rung on our ladder of priorities.

Paul exhorted that it is the FIRST priority:

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
1Ti 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
1Ti 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
1Ti 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

If all of the unreached people groups on the planet have been reached with the gospel, then don't worry about

"...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;
Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Mat 9:37-38

In that case, "Prayer is NOT the answer!! . . . the harvest is already reached and reaped. There is no need for labourers to be sent out.

I don't know how it is where you live, but if all of your neighbors and family members have already come under heavy conviction for sin and truly repented, then truly "Prayer is NOT the answer!!"

If our focus is on ourselves, and OUR personal needs . . .

Quote:
-----We should know how to "tell Jesus all of our troubles", and take solace in the fact that God knows what we need even before we tell Him, but more importantly we need to hear what He would tell us and speak into our hearts after we've told Him all our problems and requests.

Quote:
-----You see, What are my words? "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." God is still speaking today. Jesus said, "He that hath ears to hear let him hear". Hearing is far better than me talking. God knows what I have need of before I even utter a word, but I don't know what God knows before He speaks to me, thus It's more important to hear than it is to speak. If we could just hear one word from God our lives would never be the same. Hearing God is like the red sea parting, there is no question that God hath spoken.

God longs for his children to mature to the place where our own personal spiritual livelihood is NOT the focus of our prayers, but we are crying out to Him because of the needs in the lives of OTHER PEOPLE!

If the purpose of prayer is self-centered, then truly "Prayer is NOT the answer!!"

If in our hearts, "the end of all being is the glory of God", and our hearts ache within us because He is not glorified by ALL of his creation, then Prayer IS the answer!! And that kind of praying brings glory to God and pleases Him greatly:

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Prayer is NOT the answer!!

Psa 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psa 107:15 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psa 107:21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psa 107:31 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Can you feel that yearning within yourself for all men to glorify our God who is SO worthy? Can that yearning within keep you before God's throne petitioning for others?

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiisss (), on: 2009/8/4 1:31

Quote:

DeepThinker wrote:
This thread was going very well until "someone" got off topic. Please stay on topic. Thank you.

How's this?

In a world that is rapidly going to Hell with a population that is increasingly forgetting about the Creator of all things, prayer is much-needed.

:)

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/8/4 1:53

Quote:

The trouble with most of our watered-down Christianity is that genuine prayer is missing. Most of us have not lived through situations where continuously, ONLY a supernatural act of God will work in that which perplexes us; therefore, prayer ends up taking a lower rung on our ladder of priorities.

The reason that I wrote this is that for a little over a year now, I have had the privilege of laboring for the Lord amongst people whose entire lives have been filled with obstacles where ONLY a supernatural work of God could move their situations. They have lived in extreme poverty most of their lives, and when they simply pray "give us this day our daily bread", they realize that it will only be an act of God that brings that about. They testify over and over again of dangerous situations of thieves, murderers, kidnappers etc., and of narrow escapes from death where they HAD TO HAVE a miracle.

Moving beyond their need for an act of God in their personal lives, the places where they came from are often filled with witchcraft and satan worship, and the ONLY way to evangelize people is to pray until the "spiritual wickedness in high places" is cast down, and the hearts of people can be touched by the gospel.

Their faith CAUSES THEM to pray! Because they KNOW that God will answer prayer, they spend hours in His presence appealing for his grace to be manifested one more time. Again and again they see God work! One such brother is a little short Honduran who is constantly in prayer. He has told me of such situations where in Guatemala he attended a church where groups of people are praying and fasting 24/7. A group from the church attended a funeral where they gathered around the casket and prayed for about 30 minutes, and the dead lady came alive.

The man telling about this didn't even know how to read in Spanish until after God saved him (around age 20), and he started trying to read the Bible. Most of those people are very poor, unlearned, almost "primitive" people, but they pray . . . and God moves.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/8/4 9:44

Quote:
-----God longs for his children to mature to the place where our own personal spiritual livelihood is NOT the focus of our prayers, but we are crying out to Him because of the needs in the lives of OTHER PEOPLE!

Intercession is another topic altogether. "Prayer" is comprised of multiple aspects, and one of them is certainly intercession...but intercession is not the only thing. Before we intercede for others, we need to know God, we need to know how to enter into the presence of God. There are things in our lives, burdens, unconfessed sins, hinderances that need to be removed before effectual intercession can commence.

It is like being in an airplane. In the case of an emergency landing, oxygen masks will descend from the panel above your head. Adults should put their own masks on *first* - and then help the children with theirs. The same with our walk with God. What good are we in prayer to a dying world and lost loved ones if our own lives are in distress? Peter says that husbands' and wives' prayers are hindered when they are unreconciled with each other.

The first thing, therefore, is to make sure *I'm* right with God. This is not being selfish; it is doing what is entirely needful. God already knows whom we have burdens for, and whom we wish to see saved, for He put those very burdens in us. God can birth a desire in anyone to intercede for anyone He chooses, but He requires clean hands and pure hearts in those whom He has implanted the desire.

Quote:
-----God longs for his children to mature to the place where our own personal spiritual livelihood is NOT the focus of our prayers, but we are crying out to Him because of the needs in the lives of OTHER PEOPLE!

The focus of our prayers should be for God to transform us more and more into the image of Christ, to give us an ever-increasing knowledge of the grace of the New Covenant, and that we would be filled with virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. Only then can we be mighty soul-winners in intercession. I've seen people with a noble obsession for soul-intercession who really had no understanding of God's ways and the New Covenant. When not praying, their lives were filled with all kinds of unrest, strife, love of money and vain worldliness. But when they get together they want to pray for the city, pray for the homeless, pray for the college kids, pray for global revival. But why is there no burden to *pray for ourselves*, that God would kill the ungodliness in us, so we can be able vessels, meet for the Master's use in intercession, worship, etc?

Brethren, this is what's needed, and not the other way around. Intercession always for *self* first. Paradoxically, even intercession can be selfish if you're praying for what you're wanting to see done in others, yet neglecting what God would do in you first.

Re: , on: 2009/8/4 16:18

Quote:
-----If faith is missing, faith must accompany prayer.

Indeed!

My friends do not think for a moment that I think that prayer is not important, it is. The theme of this thread is to show us that prayer alone is not the answer because we have thousands of groups worldwide that pray. Buddhist Monks pray all day to what? Their prayers are in vain. Is their praying the answer for them? Certainly not. Jews pray constantly in front of a wall thinking that their prayers are heard, they are not, because they reject the only name that can save them. Is their praying the answer for them? Again no.

Prayer is still not the answer to even those that supposed to know Christ who pray through form and say the same prayers over and over again. Is their praying the answer for them? Again no, because there is no faith being exercised. Do the Buddhist Monks have faith, I think they have faith but they don't have the faith. So their prayers are always in vain.

This is what I mean by prayer not being the answer, because the faith that God requires is not being exercised.

Quote:
-----Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

asking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him

Jesus also said, When you pray, believe. Speaking out words is not enough, we have to believe in the God who answers prayer, otherwise it's just words being uttered in the wind.

Push away the idea if you think that I am being critical of prayer, nay I establish it. It is a holy and righteous thing to do. I am pushing back traditional thinking about prayer being the answer when in fact, it's faith in God that carries our prayer to the Father.

Faith in God is the answer. I am not a sensationalist when it comes to believing that these are the "end times" I do not believe such things, however because the majority of people do, I will say this, "When the Son of Man cometh will He find faith on the Earth?". He doesn't say, those that pray, but those that have faith, will He find it. Because when you have true faith (which most of us do) we will pray.

Thank you PaulWest for that excellent insight in your last post. Man that was right on, it was like honey dripping down no urishment.

Re: Prayer is NOT the answer!! - posted by Theophila (), on: 2009/8/4 20:57

If prayer is us conversing with God Almighty AND HE WITH US....then, yes, prayer is the answer. Often times though, the highlighted part is missing .

My desire is for the Holy Spirit to help me to pray the Father's will. I believe this is the kind of prayer that 'avails much'.

prayer is... - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/8/5 0:50

Many people think they're praying to God, when they're actually just speaking out selfish wants and desires to an idol.

Prayer is the submission of the believer unto God's will, praying God's will into this world.

If you don't know God, your prayers will not be heard.

If you truly know the heart of God, He waits on you to pray.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/8/5 13:06

Quote:
-----I've seen people with a noble obsession for soul-intercession who really had no understanding of God's ways and the New Covenant. When not praying, their lives were filled with all kinds of unrest, strife, love of money and vain worldliness. But when they get together they want to pray for the city, pray for the homeless, pray for the college kids, pray for global revival. But why is there no burden to pray for ourselves, that God would kill the ungodliness in us, so we can be able vessels, meet for the Master's use in intercession, worship, etc?

I have seen plenty of those kinds also, but I am so thankful that I have also seen the kind who get beyond praying for their own perfection, and leave the matter in the hands of our loving Father (Who well disciplines those sons whom He loves), and become so absorbed with His love for their neighbors that they stay before Him in supplication. I have also seen the fruit of such supplication . . . new souls born into God's kingdom and established in Christ.

1 John 3:20 - For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 - Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

22 - And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

If we remain in the underdeveloped condition of our hearts condemning us, it is not very likely that we will do much praying for others.

1 John 4:17 ¶ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 ¶ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 ¶ We love him, because he first loved us.

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2009/8/5 15:42

Prayer in the Holy Spirit is the answer (i dont mean praying in tongues). God answers to our praying in the Spirit and his answer is yes, no, or not yet. He answers to us by sheading his love abroad in our hearts, by forgiving us when we repent, by guiding us thru his Spirit, by being our ALL in ALL. True prayer comes from a humble heart and whenever God finds a humble man that seeks him diligently and sincerely he will reveal himself to Him thru Jesus.

True prayer aspires, believes and persevears. true prayer comes from the heart and its the cry of the soul for mercy and grace. True prayer leads us to a union with God and God is all-sufficient.

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/8/5 16:03

Prayer IS the answer.

As an unbeliever, I cried out to the Lord, and he heard my cry for mercy. I prayed that He would create in me a clean heart. And He did.

Prayer most certainly IS the answer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2009/8/5 17:08

Prayer is what?

Is not prayer, the constant thought of the mind, as Jesus said, He did nothing of himself. Jesus has every thought in constant captivity to the Father, this is truly praying without ceasing.

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

And, we likewise can do nothing but by the Christ that is in us, because He is of the Father. So, what is our prayer, in Christ, we can do all things, without Him we are nothing, even our prayers.

Seeking Christ in all things is our prayer, and this should be without ceasing, "Take every thought captive".

John 8:28-32 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

This is asking amiss, unless our prayer is in obedience to Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Prayer is NOT the answer!!

Whatsoever we hear and ask we know we have, because He and the Father love us and we seek Their guidance in our prayers, that whatsoever we ask we know we have, because it's from the Father and His Son in their guidance of what to ask. Does Jesus not know and the Holy Spirit know even before we ask what we need? Then why ask with out Their council in all things.

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

His council in prayer not mine or mans'.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2009/8/5 17:51

Quote:
-----Prayer is what?

:-P I laughed when I read that.

The title was meant to be shocking. It was meant to grab your attention. Not the attention of a man's thread, but to question what you believe about prayer. Is it based upon your idea of what prayer is and what you have been taught to say, or is it something more. I think we should question everything we believe and hold it up to the candle of the LORD and see what we really believe about it and judge it. Paul admonishes us to prove all things, he even went on to say that we should judge ourselves.

No, I don't negate the element of prayer, most certainly not, for I pray all the time.

Read the other postings and you'll get a pretty good idea where we are or at least what angle I am coming at.

God bless and thank you for your post.

Re: - posted by broclint (), on: 2009/8/5 18:06

:o praying more and posting less is AN answer for me.

clint

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/8/5 18:40

Quote:
----- praying more and posting less is AN answer for me.

TRULY words of wisdom!

THANKS!!!

Re: , on: 2009/8/5 18:47

Amen Clint!

Re: Prayer is NOT the answer!!, on: 2009/8/7 15:01

Quote:

-----IWantAnguish said

If you don't know God, your prayers will not be heard.

Micah said

As an unbeliever, I cried out to the Lord, and he heard my cry for mercy. I prayed that He would create in me a clean heart. And He did.

God knows everyone. The question is whether they want to know Him.

Until they do, He calls them 'children of disobedience' and 'children of wrath' - Eph 2:2, 3 - apart from the grace of God by which we are enabled to believe when we hear the gospel - Rom 10:13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

That thing about calling on the name of the Lord, is also a calling on the *nature* of the Lord. I'm realising that He loves us to *verbalise* our hearts towards Him, whether it's in desperation, or thanks and adoration; He loves to have any kind of response which enables Him to respond in return.