

Prayer - Motivation

The Bible tells us we should “**pray constantly**”

1 Thes 17 *“Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Don't stifle the Spirit.”*

Prayer should be a mixture of interceding for people and communion with God. Our prayers make a difference for people facing an evil deceptive world. This should motivate us to pray for them - protection, deliverance and blessing.

For many of us, a few minutes spent in prayer feels like forever. Why do we struggle so much with prayer when we know how vital it is to our relationship with God?

- Too busy or tired
- Can't concentrate
- Don't know what to pray about
- Don't feel like it
- Lazy
- Feel guilty
- Not convinced it makes a difference

It takes faith to talk to someone you can't see and can't hear. When we approach the Lord with faith prayer can and should be richly rewarding, enjoyable and engaging.

Do you look back over your life and wince. As far as the east is from the west so far have I removed your sin. If God has chosen to remember your sins no more then we should choose to do the same. Remember only the good that we have done.

If we aren't captivated by God, prayer is a tedious task. It becomes a discipline that only those with wills of steel can master. Prayer could be regarded as “slogging through a list” before God. It means trying to bring reams and reams of petitions before the Lord. Requests = Spirituality?

Matt 6:7 *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.*

Prayer is about relationship. If you don't feel God speaking to you then it is a one way relationship. Should be 50% listening 50% talking. Make your bible reading personal. God is a God of wisdom - pray for wisdom. Intermingle prayer with bible reading.

Martin Luther: “I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer”. Ps 37:5 *Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act, making your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday.* When we pray over things they often sort themselves out faster than if we plod on in our own strength.

What is communion? Communion is the intimate sharing of thoughts and emotions, fellowship with rapport and communication. This is the kind of relationship God wants.

How is God's desire for communion (intimate relationship) with us expressed in the following verses?

Is 30:18 *Therefore the Lord is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the Lord is a just God. Happy are all who wait patiently for Him.*

Is 65:1 *I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations--*

Jer 33:3 *Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know.*

Matt 23:37 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.*

Are you a human being in prayer or a human doing. Can you sit and rest in His presence assured of his love for you, assured that He wants to be with you.

Have you become hardened to the excitement of walking in continual awareness of God's presence? Have you lost your first love? He desires open communion, He wants you to be preoccupied with Himself. Seeing God this way enables us to stand in awe of Him. It stimulates our heart to vital communion and conversation with Him. Seeing God as He is requires faith on our part, but whoever is enamoured and thrilled with God is then rightly motivated to pray. Discipline will still be necessary, but prayer won't be drudgery. John 4:24 *"God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth"*