

# The Spiritual Value of Prayer



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The greatest spiritual value in prayer is that it calls for a personal dealing with God. To get the full spiritual blessing in prayer would be the very act of going to God personally and receiving what we have prayed for. It is important for us to pray for each other, and join one another in prayer, but it will not bring the great spiritual light and blessing that would come by going to God ourselves, dealing with Him in person, and get our deliverance that way. It brings us to a fuller knowledge of God that could not be received in any other way.

God wants to hear and answer our prayers, but the devil wants to hang on as long as he can. The devil always wants us to look at the oppression and think about how long we have been feeling this way. I feel this and I feel that. The world calls it, (and we give it a name). That is Satan's way of getting in and holding on as long as he can. We are looking at the oppression and not at the Cross. God's Word says we are well, Satan says you are weak, and you have that feeling. We need to look up to the Cross and what it has done for us; we cannot be looking down at ourselves.

A little saying that has big meaning: it would pay for us to think about it—when we are looking down, we are not looking up. If we are looking down at what we are going through, thinking about what we feel, and give it a name, as the world would do; we are accepting Satan's thoughts, and we are not looking up to the Cross and seeing our full deliverance that Jesus Blood has bought for us.

As far as God's side is concerned, the answer to our prayer is already granted. Everything has been given to us and is already ours. Everything has been provided for us by that great work that Jesus Christ has done for us on the Cross.

Romans 8:16-17, *"We are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."*

It is the same with our answers to prayer. God does not stop our prayers from being answered, but we can. **God is more anxious for us to have our prayers answered than we are to receive them.** One might say, "How can that be, you don't know how bad I need this victory."

We think that the victory we want is the important part, and this is what we need when all the time the victory we desire is not the greatest need.

We need to stop and think about the great price that has been paid for our victory. If God was not anxious for us to receive our victory. He would not have sent His Son to hang alive for six hours on a Cross and die in terrible agony to take out of the way everything that would hinder His love and power from being manifested to answer every prayer and deliver us out of all our troubles.

That places a huge responsibility on our shoulders, because the great provision that has been made and God's favorable attitude toward us, takes away every possible excuse that we could have for not having our prayers answered.

We are not always successful when we first come to God, but God is patient and loving. He will take us as fast as we let Him 2 Peter 3:9 WEY, *"The Lord is not slow in fulfilling His promise, in the sense in which some men speak of slowness. But He bears patiently with you, His desire being that no one should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

When we first come to know God, we do not realize how loving and kind He really is and how willing He really is to hear and answer our every prayer. It is only through our personal dealings with Him will we know what our Holy God is really like.

It is then that we will see how anxious He is to help us, how loving and wise He really is, how true and righteous are His ways, and how effectual and valuable are His plans. That is what we will come to know by our personal dealings with Him. Every time we go to God and get an answer to prayer, we not only get a better knowledge of Him, but we will grow in faith, which means a real growth in our spiritual character.

Every time we go to God in prayer, it requires a final decision to trust Him alone for the things that we want Him to do. Of all the things that has hindered prayers from being heard and answered, are accepting the thoughts that comes from the self-life, to always have something to fall back on in case God would fail us. That thought is directly from Satan himself. God will never fail us, but we have too many times failed Him.

God's Word says in Joshua 1:5 (KJV) *"I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."* Every promise written in God's Word is just as effectual today as the day they were when they were written.

As the late Pastor often said, "We must burn that bridge behind us." Never have a plan to fall back on. Make that final decision that we are going to go through with a total trust on God, even if it costs us our life. A sincere decision like that will destroy the self-life within us. To allow the self-life to rule within, has been the cause of all the trouble we have ever had and all the trouble the world has ever known.

It is not what we do outwardly, or do not do, but it is our inward spiritual condition. That is what Paul refers to in the Sixth chapter of Galatians when he tells us, *"Neither circumcision (that is what we do outwardly) availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, (that is what we fail to do from an outward standpoint) but a new creature."* That is a new spiritual nature within. Nothing outwardly avails anything, but we need that new spiritual nature within, the only thing that really matters.

The late Pastor said he had people come to him saying that they were trusting God for some deliverance and still not getting their victory. He said, I

could tell they were leaning on something else besides God, or there was a possibility of doing so. **In other words, their decision to go through with trusting God alone was not a final one. Our decision to go through with God must be unto death, if necessary.**

The late Pastor also said there was another person that came to him and said they were trusting God for the healing of their eyesight, but after removing their glasses their eyesight was not any better. Then an important document was given to them, that they had to read, so they went and got those glasses and put them on.

That showed that their decision to trust God was not a final decision, and they were only experimenting. Their attitude should have been that even if they went blind, they would never put those glasses on again, but would trust God to put sight in their eyes. They had more faith in two pieces of glass than they had in the great God of Heaven, who made these eyes and can restore their vision regardless of age or any other thought of man. **The greatest blessing of that victory would be the great spiritual blessing received from a personal dealing with the great God of heaven who hath given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:3)**

God knows whether we are experimenting or not and if we are, God cannot help us. We have made our free-will-choice, one that will allow Satan, who also knows if we are experimenting, to get in and make a world of trouble for us until we make that final decision to go through with placing our entire faith and trust on the living God alone, regardless of consequences.

That will bring about a real death to the self-life because the very foundation of the self-life is to trust in anything or anybody but God. When we turn our back on the ways of the self-life and make a final decision to trust in God alone, even if it costs us our life, we have practically eliminated every possible hindrance that Satan could use to hinder our prayers from being answered.

Another important thing about prayer is that we must accept God's Word as sufficient evidence

that our prayer is answered. We need to be very careful about this since the natural human heart has no time for God's Word. For instance, the so-called Christian world goes by what they see or feel and what Satan puts into their minds. Sad to say, that has followed many of us, far into our Christian life. **Many times, we have prayed and then waited to see or feel our deliverance before we count our prayer heard and answered.**

We may have prayed earnestly and sincerely and wondered why we did not receive our answer. But the real trouble is, it was a case of total unbelief, not willing to count our prayer answered on the authority of God's written Word alone.

Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, (or anyone who will hear and accept my Word) and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*"

God always wants to hear and answer our every prayer, there is not any room for the least doubt about it. If God would answer Satan's prayer in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark and answer the prayer of Cain, an unrepentant murderer, with his hands still stained with the blood of his own brother, and also answer every prayer throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, then we should stand convicted when we allow Satan to bluff us out of our rights.

Jesus said in John 16:23-24, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*"

He does not say, "Maybe you will receive it," or "Maybe if you pray long and fervently, you might get some sort of deliverance." No, if that is what that verse meant, then we would have some excuse for not having our prayer heard and answered.

When God freely gave His own Son, how would it be possible that He would not give us everything less just as freely? If He would give us the greatest gift ever, then He will give us everything less just as freely.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:9-11, "*What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*"

He means that if an earthly parent, born in sin, would do their best for their children, how much more would God, who is more loving, kind, and compassionate than they are, do for us when we give Him the least chance.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:20, "*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*" In other words, every promise of God has "**YES**" stamped on the face of them and back of every promise is the Blood of Christ that has made each one valid for all time.

There are two easy conditions to be met to be successful in the prayer life. The *first* is, to place the matter into God's hands finally and forever, *and then*, to accept God's Word as sufficient evidence that our prayer is really heard and answered. We don't have to keep praying over and over again and sit there waiting for the answer to come before we believe our prayer is heard and answered. We are to settle it once and for all that we are going to trust God to the very limit and believe that we have received what we have prayed for. Because Jesus told us in John 14:13, "*Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do.*"

That great spiritual light and blessing that comes by going to God alone in a personal prayer with Him and getting our deliverance that way, brings us to a better knowledge of God that could not be received in any other way. ***That is the great spiritual value of prayer!***



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