

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

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I watch videos by a minister somewhere in the Carolinas. One of his videos reminded me that God has put in place a means of communicating with Him. That is, He has put in place prayer. It's His way of communicating with us. How much do you communicate with God?

Stop for a moment and realize that when you pray, you are communicating with the Creator of **everything**. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2) "He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them." (Psalm 147:4) The only true creator of all, as we know it, will listen to your prayers. Stop and contemplate that—that God will listen to your prayer requests. Notice I say requests rather than demands.

Communicating means there is a two-way conversation, you talk and someone listens, and they talk and you listen. Prayer is no different. However, a lot of Christians don't communicate with God; they tell Him what they want and how He should answer their prayer. This is not a conversation. Why would someone think for a second they can tell God what to do and how to do it?

If this is you, I have a verse for you to take to be a head change, a heart change, and a life change. "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10) Stop trying to fix it yourself; pray, asking for His help, then listen for an answer. Yes, it will not be an audible voice, but you will know that God answered your prayer.

We must realize that God loves us and wants the best for us, even with all of our faults. Ask yourself the same question David asked. "Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord, and he said, 'Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?'" (2 Samuel 7:18) Who are we that God wants to be involved in our lives? The most high God values us so much that He sent Jesus to make salvation possible, and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide us through life, provided we let Him lead.

When you pray, do you practice these verses? "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22) "But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind." (James 1:6) Why pray if you don't believe He will answer you?

Adam and Eve had a more direct, conversational relationship with God. This changed. Now, man prays to God. Prayer has been around since the beginning in some form or fashion. The first record of man praying is this: "To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord." (Genesis 4:26)

Christians must recognize that prayer is a vital component of their relationship with God. Prayer is most certainly not just what you do when you find yourself in a crisis. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

Take Daniel, for example. He prayed when it was illegal. "Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously." (Daniel 6:10) His praying cost him a night in the lion's den. David trusted God and received God's protection. "²¹ Then Daniel spoke to the king, 'O king, live forever! ²²

My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." ²³ Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God." (Daniel 6:21-23)

Now, let's look at some examples from the New Testament about praying. There are numerous examples of Jesus praying. Many times, we read how He got away from everyone and found a quiet place and prayed. He gave us the model prayer. He prayed just before He and His disciples left the Upper Room (John 17). He prayed in the garden just before He allowed Himself to be taken captive.

Is there power in prayer? You be the judge. "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;" (Acts 16:25) What happened because of their prayer and singing? "and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened." (Acts 16:26)

Here is a scripture that I believe most Christians do not practice. "¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him." (James 5:13-15) It works. Believe me, I know.

Prayer should be a simple, private conversation with God, not a performance for others. Pray for others; prayer is our lifeline with God, and pray about everything, showing your trust in God and wanting His guidance in your life. "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." (James 5:16) How much do **you** communicate with God? Pray and have a blessed week.

Don't Stop Praying: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpbZqMJ-B44>