

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Prayer

"Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers!" – William Culbertson

"I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered." – Jean Ingelow

"Call on God, but row away from the rocks." – Indian Proverb

"Only in prayer do we achieve that complete and harmonious assembly of body, mind, and spirit which gives the frail human reed its unshakable strength." – Alexis Carrel

Prayer is one of the most awesome blessings ever bestowed upon man. The ability to speak with our Sovereign God is absolutely amazing. There are more than seven billion souls in this world, and yet God is aware of the prayer of each of His children.

Offering prayer is a recurring theme in sacred writing. The word "pray" is found 146 times, "prayer" 113 times, "prayed" 59 times, and "praying" 25 times. Even so, it is surprising how little that Christians avail themselves to this great blessing.

Granted we live in a time that is fast paced and some have described it as "hectic." But if a child of God only communes with God on Sundays through corporate worship, then how can they expect to draw closer to God? Is it fair for them to expect God's blessings when they won't even take the time to ask for them?

The Psalmist went to God in prayer three times a day (Psa. 55:17). The prophet Daniel had his custom of praying to God three times each day (Dan. 6:10,13). Jesus prayed before daylight (Mark 1:35). Peter went "on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour" (noon) (Acts 10:9). Paul admonished the church at Thessalonica to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). Surely the Bible makes it clear that Christians should always pray. When Jesus gave the famed Sermon on the Mount, he did not have to admonish people to pray, but rather spoke to them about when they would pray (Matt. 6:5-7).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

Even in our songs, we remind ourselves of the need to pray. "Sweet Hour Of Prayer," "Did You Think To Pray?," "Father Hear The Prayer We Offer," etc.

The encouragement is to pray fervently and often. Remember the principle, "...you do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2).