

jul 1

when you pray - not if you pray

"but you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." matt 6:6

prayer is such an intricate part of the christian life. prayer is the practice of the presence of God. it is the place where pride is abandoned, hope is lifted, and supplication is made. prayer is the place of admitting our need, of adopting humility, and claiming dependence upon God. prayer is the needful practice of the christian. prayer is the exercise of faith and hope.

the most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God." prayer is not meditation or passive reflection; it is direct address to God. it is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.

if you really want to know someone better you want to be around them. you want to converse with them, learn their feelings and express yours. i can already hear many of you saying, "but it's a one-way conversation and that's hard to keep up." well maybe you are doing too much talking and not enough listening.

oh, the effort satan will go to in order to distract us from prayer, one of our greatest spiritual weapons.

James 5:16 assures us the prayer of a righteous person, which includes all who belong to Christ, is powerful and effective. the greek word our bibles translate as "powerful" describes a combative, overcoming force energized by God.

no matter our struggle, concern, or temptation, may we always first turn to prayer. i want now to recite to you these lyrics by e.e. hewitt.

-----

a blessing in prayer

There is rest, sweet rest, at the Master's feet.  
there is favor now at the mercy seat,  
for atoning blood has been sprinkled there.  
there is always a blessing, a blessing in prayer.

there's a blessing in prayer, in believing prayer,  
when our Saviour's name to the throne we bear.  
then a Father's love will receive us there;  
there is always a blessing, a blessing in prayer.

there is grace to help in our time of need,  
for our Friend above is a friend indeed.  
we may cast on Him ev'ry grief and care.  
there is always a blessing, a blessing in prayer.

when our songs are glad with the joy of life,  
when our hearts are sad with its ills and strife,  
when the pow'rs of sin would the soul ensnare,  
there is always a blessing, a blessing in prayer.

there is perfect peace tho' the wild waves roll;  
there are gifts of love for the seeking soul,  
till we praise the Lord in His home so fair.  
there is always a blessing, a blessing in prayer.

-----

there is always a blessing in prayer. are you missing out of some of your blessings? some may think i speak too often of prayer. this ministry is called a "ministry of prayer". we may not have much in prestige or money but we do have prayer. is that of any value to you? "cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." eccl 11:1 the time you spend in prayer will come back multiplied in ways you never imagined.

prayer is a place of birthing. "the iniquity of ephraim is bound up; his sin is stored up. the sorrows of a woman in childbirth shall come upon him. he is an unwise son, for he should not stay long where children are born." hos 13:12-13 the following verse even speaks of death being ransomed from the grave. that's the power of the birthing place. there is not a great move of God that was not birthed here first.

there are things which will hinder your prayers, things which will bring conviction instead of relief in this holy place. some might call it a "still birth". fear, doubt, unbelief, unforgiveness, warranted guilt - these are but a few. if anything in your heart speaks to you of condemnation, these must be cleared up first. because "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk

according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."  
rom 8:1

if you still think i speak too much of prayer, maybe you aren't even awake to the times we are living in. our Lord is coming! "but you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief." 1 thess 5:4 we know not the time but we do know the times. "take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is." mark 13:33

the year is now half spent. let's begin this new month as though it were the first of the year. let us make a resolution to spend more time in the birthing place. unlike other resolutions we may have made, let's keep this one. it will not just be worldly benefits we harvest. it will be eternal ones.