

Prayer: What is It?

The importance of prayer.

Very practical.

What is prayer?

Revelation 3:20, Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

I. How do I talk to God?

A. Let's consider P.R.A.Y. as an acronym.

1. P.

Psalm 100:4, Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2. R.

Revelation 2:5, Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works...

How do we do it?

1. Confession.

1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Ask for forgiveness

Luke 11:4, And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

3. Then you seek to forsake it, to overcome.

Proverbs 28:13, He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

4. If you fail, go through the process again.

3. A.

a. Others

1 Timothy 2:1, I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.

b. Ourselves

Philippians 4:6-7, Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

4. Y.

II. How do I listen to God?

A. God's word.

2 Timothy 3:16, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

B. His Holy Spirit.

John 16:13-14, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

C. Important steps to take so we can listen well.

1. Seek a quiet place free of distraction.
2. Seek not to be in a hurry.
3. Read scripture prayerfully.
4. Be willing to embrace silence and meditation so God can speak.
5. Process thoughts to determine if it is God or not.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6, For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

6. Whatever God says, do.