

WHAT ARE WE DOING WHEN WE PRAY?

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Those who are in sin and are not children of God by virtue of being born again in obedience to the gospel do not have the privilege of prayer.
2. Therefore, when I refer to, What are **WE** doing when we pray?, I have reference to children of God, those who make up God's family, those in the church belonging to Jesus Christ.
3. And I am asking:

II. DISCUSSION

A. WHAT ARE WE DOING WHEN WE PRAY?

1. When we pray, we are talking to our heavenly Father, who listens and hears his children, Mt.6:9; Col.3:17; Rom.8:15.
2. When we pray, we are exercising our faith in God's ability to answer our prayers, Jas.1:5-7.
3. When we pray, we are following the example of Jesus Christ whom we are to imitate, Mt.26:36-44; Lk.6:12,13; 22:39-46.
4. When we pray, we are helping prepare ourselves to avoid yielding to temptation, Lk.22:40,46; Mt.6:9-13; Jas.1:12; 1Cor.10:12,13.
5. When we pray, we are allowing Jesus Christ, as our Mediator, to act on our behalf, 1Tim.2:5; Rom.8:26,27 (Rev.2:23); Col.3:17.
6. When we pray, we are also showing concern for others, Jas.5:16; 1Tim.2:1-6; cf. Lk.23:34; Ac.7:60.

B. WHAT MOVES US TO PRAY, SEEKING GOD'S HELP? HIS BLESSINGS?

1. Humility leads us to pray for God's blessings.
 - a. See Lk.18:9-14 for a comparison between one who was moved by humility and another by pride.
 - b. Cf. Jas.4:6; Eph.4:1-3.
2. Devotion to and reverence for God moves us to pray, Ac.10:1,2; 16:16-25; cf. Jas.1:17.
3. Trouble, tribulation, etc. moves us to pray, Ac.7:54-60; 12:1-5; Rom.12:12.
4. The need for forgiveness as erring Children of God moves us to pray, Ac.8:20-24; cf. Ps.51:1-17; 32:1-7.

C. SOME ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

1. Faith is an essential element of prayer, Jas.1:5-7. Cf. Heb.11:6; Mt.21:22; 1Tim.2:8
2. Desire, seeking, asking in the name of Jesus in harmony with his will is an essential element of prayer, Mt.7:7-11; Jno.14:13,14; Col.3:17. Cf. Psa.42:1,2; 1Jno.5:14,15.
3. Importunity (persistent solicitation; to beg persistently) is an essential element of prayer, Lk.18:1-7 (emp.vv.1,5); 1Th.5:17; Rom.12:12; cf. Gal.6:9.
4. Obedience is an essential elemental of prayer, Deut.5:29; 1Sam.15:22; Heb.5:8,9; Gal.5:6; 1Jno.5:4,5; Jno.14:15,16,21,13,24.

D. WHAT WILL KEEP GOD FROM HEARING AND ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS?

1. Disobedience and unrepented sins will keep God from hearing our prayers, Isa.59:1,2; Prov.28:9; Psa.66:18; Jas.4:3; 1Pet.3:7; Cf. Jno.9:31; 1Jno.5:16-18.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Prayer is a vital part of the Christian's life in the service of God.
2. Without it we are w/o vital access to God's saving grace as Christians.
3. Without it we cannot even communicate with God!
4. Without the prayer of faith, we can't be heard in our praying.
5. There is absolutely no substitute for the prayer of faith!