



Prayer is the strongest link between man and God. This is why God created mankind – to have a loving fellowship with Him. If you, as a believer, don't develop that kind of loving fellowship with the Lord, you are missing out on the core reason why God created you. Knowing this, we realize that an intimate fellowship with God is developed through a life of prayer. It is through that meaningful time in prayer that you develop your love life with the Lord.

We were not created to be independent upon ourselves, anyone or anything – but God. We were created to be dependent upon our Creator. God designed us that way. As Christians, we cannot effectively live life on our own, independent from God. We need a lifelong communication with Him

as He guides and instructs us throughout life

Why should we pray?

There are many reasons to pray. First of all, God desires that we commune with Him, praising and worshipping him, thanking Him for what He has done for us. He wants us to get to know Him, developing an intimate relationship, as well as bring our problems and the problems around us to Him. A solid prayer life then fulfills the satisfaction between man and his Creator.

Go to God first

When a person first comes to Christ, the most important thing a believer can do is learn is how to pray. If a new believer goes to God first, from the onset of his or her walk with the Lord, that person will learn to become God dependent instead of man dependent. He or she will lean on God instead of other people. Having God first puts Him in a rightful place in your life and in the earth. That is exactly the place that God wants His people to be.

As a new believer, or one who hasn't spent a lot of time in prayer, it is important to know that you have access to come into God's presence because of your faith in Jesus Christ. You have a relationship that needs to be developed into a meaningful fellowship between you and God.

- Go to God first to worship Him – for He longs to be worshipped.
- Go to God first to praise Him – to acknowledge Him before others
- Go to God first to thank Him – to develop a thankful heart attitude toward the blessings He has bestowed upon you.
- Go to God first to commune with Him – that is why He created you.
- Go to God first to put God in His rightful place in your life and in the earth - This acknowledges God as your Creator and the center of the universe.
- Go to God first with your problems - allowing Him to solve your problems instead of relying on other people.

It is important that we go to God to build that relationship into a meaningful fellowship. Prayer needs to be the Christian's lifeline. If new believers looked to God first from the very onset of his or her Christian walk, his or her prayer life will be established.

Alone with God

You cannot come to know God deeply with shallow conversation. Intimacy with Him requires development and cultivation. The deepest working of the Holy Spirit comes during the time spent alone in His presence. When you set time aside for fellowship with God, you enter into the richest experience of the Christian life.¹ You will discover that your alone time with God will be the most important, yet richest place to be in all the world.

How to pray

You may have been taught as a child that you need to bow your head, close your eyes, and fold your hands while praying. That is not scriptural. God demonstrated in His Word the many ways to pray. Throughout the Word, the people of God kneeled, prostrated themselves before Him, sat, and stood. The primary way God's people prayed was standing with uplifted hands, eyes wide open, looking up into the heavens.

When you read the New Testament, it must be remembered that God taught His people to pray under the Old Covenant. That didn't change under the New Covenant. There are, however, only a few references regarding positions in prayer in the New Testament.

1 Tim 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. KJV

Heb 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down...KJV

Your physical position, therefore, is not the important thing in prayer. It is what goes on in your heart is what matters. You may, therefore, pray in the posture that you desire.

Relationship versus fellowship

If you are going to develop a loving relationship with others, you must first develop a solid loving relationship with your Heavenly Father. You first receive from Him, all that He has to give, and then out of the overflow of your love for Him, you give out to others.

Our relationship with God is vertical



Our relationship with others is horizontal



¹ Burke, Dennis. Knowing God Intimately. Harrison House. Tulsa Oklahoma.

Relationship

Relationship is positional. Believing and confessing to God and to others who Christ is to you brings you into eternal salvation. You have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You have been passed from death unto life. You have positionally become a Christian. Your position is your relationship with Him. You are going to heaven after you leave this earth – but while here on earth, your Christianity is at best minimal, staying at a positional relationship with Christ.

Fellowship

Fellowship is experiential. You must experience fellowship with the Lord to have your relationship meaningful. You must experience fellowship with the Lord to grow in your faith. The deeper you know Him, the stronger you will grow in your faith. The faith struggle that so many Christians experience will slowly be replaced by the awesome realization that God loves you deeply and wants to give you His best. You, in turn, will discover that you can put your trust in His love. You are developing a fellowship with the Lord.

You were created to fellowship with your Creator. Fellowshiping with the Lord, however, is not taught, but something that is caught. This course will help you find that place of fellowship with the Lord, but you are going to have to choose for yourself to desire that fellowship. When you choose, a yearning to spend time with the Lord will take place. At that point, you are no longer taught, but you have caught the heart of what was taught, and you yearn to spend time with the Lord.

A balanced Christian life

A balance of the Word of God and prayer is important in a believer's life. Most Christians, by nature, tend to lean one way or another toward prayer or the reading of the Word. If one centers more on the Word of God than on prayer, he or she runs the risk of becoming judgmental toward others. If, on the other hand, one centers more on prayer than on the Word of God, the risk of becoming unstable in thinking is a possibility. That is why a believer needs both prayer and the Word of God operating in his or her life. A believer's prayer life should be based and built upon the Word of God. If the Word of God does not substantiate what is heard in prayer, the risk of hearing from self or the devil is not only a possibility, but a probability. The balance of a deep prayer life, substantiated by the Word of God is vital for a balanced, full life in Christ.

God shapes our world by prayer

The more praying there is, the better the world will be, and the mightier the forces against evil will be in motion.