

Serious Misconceptions About Prayer

- From God's perspective, praying an hour a day has no value in and of itself!
- God doesn't work that way, and He's not impressed with how long you spend in prayer!
- Prayer becomes religious when you try to use it for something God never intended.
- Self-edification is an important New Testament purpose of prayer.
- Prayer is communion with God! The expression of this communion isn't limited to a particular set of body positions.
- Be creative and find ways to commune with Him all day long!
- Prayer is not to inform God how bad your situation is. He already knows what you need even before you ask.
- Prayer ought to be something you can fit into your normal day.
- God understands the situation better than you do! It's simply not necessary or beneficial to give God a detailed description of your problem.
- Praying God's solution from the Word releases life, but praying negatively and focusing on your problems only energizes and strengthens them.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue..." Proverbs 18:21

- Even in "prayer," your words produce either death or life.

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Matthew 6:9-13

- A new covenant prayer must be prayed in the name of Jesus.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." Psalm 100:4

- This is how you're supposed to begin prayer, by entering into His presence thanking, praising, and blessing Him.
- Instead of focusing on your unworthiness, thank Him for His goodness.
- As you enter into His presence, remember: He's your Father!

- He desires all believers to be so familiar with His love that our approach toward Him is bold.
- God wants His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven! This should serve as a guideline for what we expect from Him.
- In light of who God is, nothing is really that big of a problem.

Importunity In Prayer

"Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:6-8

- The problem isn't His willingness or ability to give, but rather our ability to believe and receive.
- God's not like the unjust judge making you wait a long time for His answer. You don't have to beg God!
- God has already released His power. It's in us. Now we must release His power to others.
- Instead of doing what He's commanded us to do, we're asking God to do what He told us to do.

Each individual must personally believe in Christ for themselves!

Reflection:

Do you honestly believe you will gain more from God if you pray more than someone else?

Do you have the image and attitude that you must beg God in prayer?

If the way you are praying isn't getting good results, why then would you resist change in this area?
