

# FAITH

THE MESSENGER

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## Praying to God is the most wonderful conversation

You know, praying is a conversation between you and God in which you get to know each other better. You can seek His help and at the same time, share your experiences with Him. Some of you may wonder if you're reaching Him and you may even question if you deserve to have our prayers answered. Doubt can be an issue as you ask



yourself: What is the right way to talk to your Heavenly Father about your needs?

Good question, one also asked by the disciples when they walked with Jesus two millenniums ago. You learn about this as you go to Luke 11:1 KJV which reads:

"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Just like you, the

disciples had a strong desire to communicate with God. We can learn from this communication between Jesus and His disciples as He begins to instruct them on how to pray. We go to Matthew 6:5-6 KJV as [5] reads:

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they

have their reward."

Jesus makes this first point about prayer: God resents having your private conversation with Him aired in public; the marketplace. Your needs are personal and your prayers are confined to the two of you. The hypocrites that teach otherwise will receive their just reward. Verse [6] continues:

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy

Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

"Shut thy door" is a figure of speech where Christ is saying: Prayer is private and personal and only involves you and His Father; a (one on one) conversation gives this privacy. God expects your undivided attention and you need His and this leads to the rewards of open communication.

Christ continues to teach us to pray as we go to Luke 11:9-10 KJV which reads:

"[9] And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

[10] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

God hears your knock and He feels your sincerity as His door opens to receive your request. He is your maker as well as your closest relative;

He knows your needs, even before you ask. He lets you know this in Matthew 6:8 as it reads:

"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

As you pray to God, you pray in the name of Christ. When you pray in the name of Jesus, you're showing your Heavenly Father that you recognize Him as your Redeemer and Savior. Just before being crucified, Jesus was praying to His Father in heaven. Observe how tenderly and sincerely He shows His love for you as He was concluding His prayer. You see and feel this love and we join Him in prayer in John 17:25-26 KJV where Jesus is praying:

"[25] O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

[26] And I have de-

clared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Christ is the Word and He teaches you well. You can learn so much from Him as it's through prayer that you show your feelings. When is the last time you expressed your feeling to Him?

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*Pastor Billy Johnson can be reached by email at [billy@lakeshorebible.info](mailto:billy@lakeshorebible.info) or viewed online at [www.lakeshorebible.com](http://www.lakeshorebible.com)*

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**Editor's note:** *Local ministers are encouraged to submit articles for publication on the Faith page each Friday. Contact Jim Faile or Ardie Arvidson at 332-6545, or email Jim at [jimfaile@hartsville-messenger.com](mailto:jimfaile@hartsville-messenger.com) or Ardie at [aarvidson@hartsville-messenger.com](mailto:aarvidson@hartsville-messenger.com)*