

first are the “fearful” or cowardly. These are the ones who give up in time of trial. They are not unbelievers, but they do not act on their belief. They could have had eternal life, but they feared the ridicule of friends and others. They are not disreputable sinners; they are not criminals, murderers, adulterers or drunkards. They are simply fearful, knowing what is right, but afraid to act, and as a result have lost the kingdom. It takes courage to obey God. It costs something to be on the side of truth, but what a terrible price must be paid by the fearful. They are found outside the city of God, with the vilest of sinners.

1 John 1:7 But if we _____, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

When we walk in the light of truth we enjoy fellowship with other believers. We also rejoice that the blood of Jesus has cleansed us from sin.

God cannot accept a half-hearted surrender. Jesus said that it is impossible to serve two masters. Paul became a great Christian because he followed Jesus all the way. The true Christian will be willing to do anything God indicates. Dear Friend, can you say the following words of this hymn and mean them? If you can, eternal life is yours!

All to Jesus I surrender
 All to Him I freely give
 I will ever love and trust Him
 In His presence daily live
 I surrender all.

Do you plan to follow Jesus ALL the way? _____



Life's VITAL ANSWERS

The Power of Prayer.



Would you like to learn some secrets for powerful Christian living? A living connection with God through prayer and a focus on the riches of God's kingdom, rather than the riches of this world provides you an excellent start. Let's dig deeper and explore these powerful principles.

Matthew 6:9-13 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name . . . And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

This is the model prayer given by Jesus, usually referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer”. The disciples had asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and Jesus gave this prayer as a guide to the things we need to pray for and about. We can, however, pray about all things. This prayer is a broad outline and can be repeated word for word, but its purpose goes far beyond this.

John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 _____

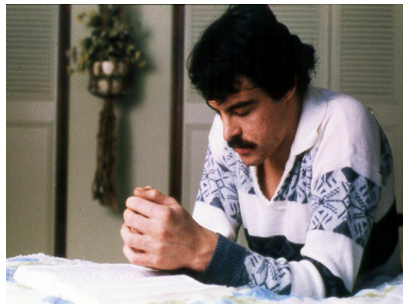
When we pray to Our Father in heaven, we make our petitions through the name of Jesus. The promise is given that our prayers will be answered.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Answered prayer becomes a reality when we believe.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray continually;

Obviously this does not mean we will be upon our knees in prayer all the time, but it does mean we can always be within speaking distance of God. The atmosphere of heaven can be with us no matter where we are, or what we are doing.



“There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. There is nothing that can prevent us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. In the crowds in the street in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God and plead for divine guidance. We should have the door of the heart open continually and our invitation

When one member of the family accepts the truth of the Bible and the others do not, immediately there is friction. The first thought is to forget it, and continue on as before, but the conscience will not allow it. Some feel that peace is better, but correct reasoning demands that upholding Jesus and His truth is more important. Jesus knew this problem would arise, for He said, “I did not come to bring peace but a sword”. See Matthew 10:34-39. Accepting the gospel will make us love our relatives and fellow humans more. Our desire will be to see them accept Jesus and His truth. It is not likely that this will happen if we let down on our standards. By remaining firm in the midst of opposition, we will attract others by our faithfulness and Christian love. However, let us always be tactful, loving and Christlike; a soul is never won by argument – calm reasoning, yes; but not argument.

John 12:42,43 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

It’s always a tragedy when one does not stand for his/her convictions because of what others may think. This person needs to pray for the courage not to be ashamed of Jesus. People did not stand up for Jesus in His time because of what religious leaders might say or think. Unfortunately it is often the same today. People are afraid of what relatives, friends or even religious leaders might think of them if they stand up for the truth. Again, Jesus and His truth must take first place.



Nicodemus came at night to talk to Jesus but did not accept him openly for some time.

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Here is a list of types of people who will not enter the glory land. The

unless we accept Him we are lost. Jesus has His values crystal clear, and He was prepared to pay the price of His life so that you might have eternal life.

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

There is no doubt. Eternal things have top priority. There are many things in this life we must do that are not spiritual – our work, household chores etc., and these we need to do to the best of our ability. The way we go about our mundane tasks can be a good Christian witness to the community. It is only as these things crowd out spiritual things, and become all-absorbing to the exclusion of the spiritual, that they are wrong. As long as the spiritual is top of the list, we have nothing to fear.



Matthew 13:44-46 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

In these two parables, how much were these men prepared to sacrifice in order to buy the field containing the treasure, and the pearl of great price? They sold ALL. That is how much God wants of our lives, for our own good, that we might not perish, but have everlasting life. In these parables the field represents the Scriptures, the treasure is the gospel, and the pearl of great price is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:37-39 Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. _____

going up that Jesus may come and abide as a heavenly guest in the soul". Steps to Christ, page 99.

Romans 8:26 In the same way, _____ We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.



How reassuring to know that the Holy Spirit brings our prayers before God in the best possible way.

Many people often ask, "why doesn't God answer my prayers?" Many times prayer is not answered because we do not pray according to the principles laid out in the scriptures. We need to do the following:

1. Depend on God. 1 Peter 5:7
2. Pray according to God's Will. 1 John 5:14
3. Have Faith. Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6
4. Turn from sin. Psalms 66:18; Proverbs 28:9,13

When we have fulfilled the conditions of answered prayer, we can approach God with confidence, knowing He is delighted to accept us.

What Should We Pray For?

1 John 1:9 If we _____, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus told us what to pray for. Here again we are admonished to confess our sins. We do this as we pray to God.

James 1:5 If any of you _____, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

We can pray for understanding, particularly on spiritual things.

Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will

find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

James 5:15 And the prayer _____; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

If we have faith that God will heal, God will raise the sick to health in response to the earnest prayer of the believer. In fact, a devoted prayer life will encourage us to bring all things to our heavenly Father. He will be to us a constant Companion, leading us day by day in the paths of righteousness.



Our prayers are heard because Jesus intercedes for us.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

To make prayer more meaningful, it is necessary to create a suitable atmosphere. This can be done by being alone. First of all say a short prayer, then read a portion of the Bible and meditate on what you have read. Apply its meaning to you personally wherever possible. Now you have blocked out of your mind the everyday things of life, and you are ready to address God in prayer. Never rush prayer. Give it top priority. It is good to pray for specific people or particular needs. Avoid generalising in prayer, or it will become vague. When you are praying, you are talking to God as a Friend. Communicating with God through prayer is not dependent on your feelings or emotion — it is based on fact. There is victory for you, there is deliverance and there is rejoicing in the Lord. Won't you decide now to use the communication system God has provided? – PRAYER.

In this world of sin it's easy to get our values distorted. The things that appeal to our carnal natures seem worth striving for, but they are in fact like a mirage in the desert. Property, money, material possessions, or a large bank account seem to give us security, but it is all a bubble dream. We came into this world with nothing and it is certain we will go out with no material possessions. Jesus has promised us

eternal life if only we believe in Him and determine to give our lives to Him. So many are bartering away eternity because they consider this world more important—their values are all mixed up. The rich young ruler who came to Jesus had this problem.

Matthew 6:19,20 _____, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

The treasures of this world are corruptible, but the treasure that Jesus offers is absolutely secure. We lay up heavenly treasure by putting our trust in Jesus and living for Him.

Mark 8:36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Here Jesus compares the two ways of life. Even to own the whole world cannot save us for eternity. If we lose everlasting life, we have lost everything. Our life in this world will terminate all too soon. Of what value is our treasure then?



Jesus was willing to give all for us – even His life.

Philippians 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but

_____, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

How far was Jesus willing to go for us? He condescended from being equal with God, to become a man, so that He might die for us. He was prepared to die for us so that His shed blood might cover our sins. In return He asks us to live for Him, for our own eternal good, for