



DEVOTION: January 15

Prayer (Life Realities)
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Prayer is our chief avenue of spiritual intimacy, power and peace; neglecting it impoverishes us on all counts.

Every business has its protocol specifying who reports to whom, and its provisions for complaint or suggestion. God also has revealed to us how to express our worship, request His power, seek His will, and pour out our troubles. In fact, it is the chief avenue of our communication with Him, and it is intimately involved in establishing our very relationship with Him as Father, Savior and Empowering Presence. It is prayer.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray and provided them with a rich and constant example of prayer. He maintained a discipline and a joyful practice of prayer, and He displayed the fruit of His prayer life in His ability to defeat temptation, avert discouragement, and exalt God in everything. He taught His followers that prayer is especially necessary to deal with the most stubborn and hostile spiritual attacks, and that if they declined to immerse themselves in prayer when they faced trial, they would be especially vulnerable to falling into destructive sins.

Prayer is simply talking with God, yet its simplicity belies its power. Prayer is the remedy for worry, the treatment for doubt, the antidote for fear, and the inoculation against discouragement. It is the conduit for spiritual power and the conductor for directions from God, not just messages to Him.

The Christian who prays regularly, earnestly, and honestly will encounter the ever growing presence of God in all his life, on and off his knees. The Christian who does not pray will experience a growing sense of alienation, and with it a nagging emptiness, lack of purpose, and weakness to temptation of all kinds. The Christian who prays will be victorious in God's purposes. The Christian who does not pray will fall flat in spiritual endeavors.

Christians who want what Christ wants for them in this world will rearrange their priorities and will pray. Much of their success in discipleship depends on it.

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 26:41, Mark 9:29, Philippians 4:6