

When You Pray

The Bible says that when we pray that the sick will be healed, the dead will rise, mountain will move, and more. The Bible says the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16). Jesus said in John 1 that greater things will be done by those who come after Him. But what is it about prayer that gives us this power? What is it that makes prayer so powerful? The apostles might have been wondering this when they asked Jesus to teach them to pray in Matthew 6:9-15.

Jesus answered them with a prayer that is likely the most repeated prayer that has ever been said on this earth. Many Christians know it as The Lord's Prayer, and it is read in every service for many churches around the world. Instruction on prayer from the Lord Himself? What a valuable thing! But also, what a misunderstood thing.

Jesus' prayer gave us the keys to providence, freedom, healing, deliverance, and forgiveness! Yet the truth is that those things can be entirely meaningless without understanding the very beginning of the prayer! He begins with "Our Father."

God wants us to speak with Him. The Bible instructs us to never stop praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17), but here in Matthew 6 Jesus is teaching the how that goes with that very powerful when. That how begins with understanding God's condition towards us. He not only wants us to speak to Him and hear His voice, but He also wants us to know His immense and unending love for us.

Therefore, we should be praying for the revelation found in the Love of God! This revelation is how we gain the healing, the freedom, and the deliverance Jesus taught of and the by the disciples' lives. This love is how blind eyes are opened, how deaf ears hear, how the lame walk, and the dead rise. Understanding this Divine Love will open the floodgates of heaven and allow God's blessings to be freely poured upon us!

So, this week as you pray, as you read God's Word, as you commune with Him each day, before you do anything else, do one thing. Take a moment and just consider His great love and just allow it to overcome you. Allow yourself to be consumed and filled with His love for others and you. Because there is no greater place, we will ever be, than in His love!

Questions to consider:

- What has God done in your life to show you His love?
- What are some ways that we can show God's love to other people?
- What does it mean to you when the Bible says that God loves us unconditionally and more than we could ever know?

Special challenge:

- This week, while you live life with fellow Christians, share ways in which God has confirmed His love to you.