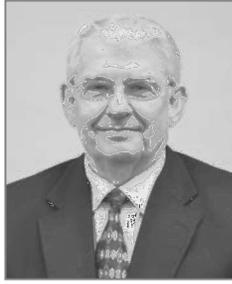


BIBLE TALK



Mike King-Minister

Question: How can my prayer-life be made more meaningful?

Answer: It seems as if you have made a start by indicating that you care. As with every question there is a Bible answer. God has provided us with the necessary solutions.

The object of our prayer must be clearly defined. God, our heavenly Father, must be the object of our prayers (Col. 1:3), to whom our thanks and petitions are addressed. Jesus is the go-between or mediator, receiving our prayers and petitioning God on our behalf (I Tim. 2:5; Rom. 1:8; Col. 3:17). Our praying is not to be casual, but "*continuing steadfastly in prayer*" (Rom. 12:12). The purpose of praying is clearly defined in Heb. 4:16, that is to "*come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace in time of need.*"

The condition of the heart is so necessary for acceptable prayer. The heart should be conditioned before praying by eliminating unforgiven trespasses (Mk. 11:25-26). We must ask in faith, believing that it will, or can be answered (Jas. 1:6-7), being asked according to His will (I Jn. 5:14-15). Someone has said, "We need to pray as if it is all up to God, but work like it is all up to me." The point being made is that I have some obligations in helping my prayers be answered. Our lives need to be lived in a responsive way so as to receive His good graces, keep His commandments and do those things "that are pleasing in His sight." This causes God to want to respond to our prayers (I Jn. 3:22; Ps. 34:15). We must not pray for things to be used counter-productively to the best interest of God and self (Jas. 4:3). Make Prayer a habit (I Thess. 5:17). It is only when we ask that we can receive...so we must be praying (Mt. 7:8)!

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