

'WHY DO YOU PRAY?'

St T's Weekly Devotional || Wednesday 20th May 2020



David Mouncer

Why do you pray? How do you view prayer? An exercise in giving God our shopping lists? An opportunity to tell God what he should be doing? Is prayer just a matter of putting a few coins in the 'spiritual bank' to build up your balance with your Heavenly Father? Or is it an opportunity to grow? To grow spiritually. To be challenged and changed by his Spirit. To become more like Jesus. At its heart is not prayer simply an opportunity to fall deeper in love with him? Once again for this devotion, I offer up to you a Puritan meditation, this time, on prayer itself. Ponder the scripture, read the meditation and thenpray.

"When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6 v 6

O Lord,

In prayer I launch far out into the eternal world,
and on that broad ocean my soul triumphs
over all evils on the shores of mortality.

In prayer I see myself as nothing;
I find my heart going after thee with intensity,
and long with vehement thirst to live to thee.

In prayer all things here below vanish,
and nothing seems important
but holiness of heart and salvation of others.

In prayer all my worldly cares, fears, anxieties disappear,
and are of as little significance as a puff of wind.

In prayer I am lifted above the frowns and flatteries of life,
and taste heavenly joys;
entering into the eternal world
I can give myself to thee with all my heart,
to be thine for ever.

In prayer I can place all my concerns in thy hands,
to be entirely at thy disposal,
having no will or interest of my own.

In prayer I can intercede for my friends, ministers
sinners, the church, thy kingdom to come,
with greatest freedom, ardent hopes,
as a son to his father,
as a lover to the beloved.

Help me to be all prayer and never to cease praying.

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