

THE SIN OF NOT PRAYING

1 Samuel 12:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1

Introduction: As a Christian, what do you think of not praying? Old Testament Samuel considered not praying as a sin against God. Do you think he was right? Think about it: to live a life without praying is to be disobedient to the command of God for the attitude and habit of prayer is encouraged and even commanded throughout the Bible. What damage happens when a Christian does not pray?

I. NOT PRAYING IS A SIN AGAINST GOD

1. What if a child never speaks with his/her parents? Never calls, never visits, never stops by? "How could a child treat his/her parents that way we say."
 - A Christian who treats God the same way is like a rebellious child.
 - Praying is a responsibility the Christian has to God.
 - Prayer is talking, communicating with God, not just some memorized repetition.
 - Through prayer God gives to His Children (Christians) grace, guidance, correction and instruction. Prayer is a two way thing.

2. Not praying means neglecting to contact God to see what He has in mind.

II. NOT PRAYING IS A SIN AGAINST ONE'S OWN SELF

1. A Christian who does not pray actually makes him/herself poorer.
 - It is through prayer that God sends/gives the essential things enabling a person to know and do what God has in mind for that person, thus blessings are missed.

2. Not praying also reveals a sick, tragic condition of that Christian's heart and life.
 - It indicates an ego problem, reveals a smug, "I'm in control" attitude, a moral laziness, even a spirit of unbelief and a preoccupation with worldly things.

III. NOT PRAYING IS A SING AGAINST OTHERS

1. Neglecting to pray makes a Christian poorer, but also not praying robs others of blessings. We need each other's prayers.

2. A vibrant faith, divine wisdom and hunger to have inward strength to withstand sinful pressures and temptations comes from prayer.
 - Blessings come as a result of prayer and blessings affect everyone around that praying Christian who is being blessed.

IV. HOW DOES ONE DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF PRAYER?

1. The first thing in developing an attitude and a spirit of regular prayer is to set apart a daily time for prayer.
2. Then one should pray, believing, until God gives His answer to the prayer: yes, no, wait.
3. Don't wait to pray when difficulties, needs and problems come up. Pray immediately!
4. Follow the examples of men and women in the Bible who prayed and had their prayers answered.
 - Study how Jesus prayed, how His prayers were answered and then pray as Jesus did.

CONCLUSION:

1. What kind of prayer life do you have? Is it one of consistency? Or is it one of necessity, you pray only when it is necessary?
2. Remember, praying is a two way communication with God. It is not one way with YOU doing all the talking (wanting something).
3. Do you get prayers answered regularly? Do you get prayers answered at all? Do you pray only for what YOU, yourself want?
4. A Christian is a member of God's Family and God wants His Family to stay in contact with Him as well as with each other.
5. Christian! Pray!