

## Do You 'Believe in Prayer'?

The word *prayer* gets thrown around a lot these days and I wonder if we sometimes forget what it's all about. You see, *prayer* is really quite meaningless unless there is a God who listens and responds. So, you might say that I do not 'believe in prayer,' but I *believe in the God of Heaven* who listens and responds.

Now, don't get the wrong idea; I'm not trying to pick at words. But what does it mean to 'pray'?

I do not believe 'prayer works' or that there is 'power in prayer,' yet I know that my *God works* in the lives of people and that *He is powerful*.

I do not 'send prayers'; I *speak openly with my Heavenly Father* who listens to His children.

I do not recite memorized prayers. Prayer is not cute poetry for the amusement of others. Clever rhymes do not move God, but rather, faith and humility in heartfelt communication.

How meaningful would it be *to you* if your children thanked you after a meal at a restaurant:

*Thanks for the meal; the food was good.  
Please drive us home; we wish you would.*

Sincere? Meaningful? After the tenth time?

**And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.**

—Matthew 6:7

I believe that prayer is important, not because it makes me feel better, but because I have been given assurances by God in scripture. He has given me promises, so I KNOW that He hears me when I intentionally speak to Him and I am confident that He answers.

**This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** —1 John 5:14

I cannot tell you whether my prayers are supplication, intercession, or something else. I pray with Intention and I open my heart to God. Sometimes, often times, I lack words; I just need... "Help!"

**...for we do not know how to pray as we should, but he Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according of the will of God.**  
—Romans 8:26-27

There are times when I express my joy, praise, and thanks; sometimes I make a request. I pray for understanding when I do not understand. I pray for discernment when I face uncertainties. I pray for strength to endure trials and for courage to stand firm in my faith.

**Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.**  
—Mark 11:24

I find myself being cautious with my attitude when praying. I never think of prayer as a 'tool' or a means to obtain what *I want*. I realize that I am addressing the Holy God of Heaven who Created the universe, including me.

**You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

**God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** —James 4:3 & 6

Prayer is really quite simple, just open your heart to God, but always watch your attitude. Believe God; believe in God; believe in the God who answers prayer. Talk to God. Pray.