



When You Pray:

RELATIONSHIP

PREVIEW

When you pray, realize it's about your relationship with God, not the opinion of others.

PRAISE

Did you know God gives us the opportunity to be in a relationship with him? Think about it- the one who created everything in Heaven and Earth, the one who places kings and presidents in their positions, wants to get close to you and spend time with you! Prayer is how we build our relationship with God. So, when you pray, have the understanding that it's about your relationship with God, not what others think.

PARABLE

Have you ever had a friend you thought you were close to, but when others came around that friend seemed to disappear? It was a conditional relationship based on what others thought, rather than a genuine interest. Now have you had a friend that you could spend hours talking with because you cared about each other? They spent time talking with you because they enjoyed it. You spent time talking to them because you enjoyed it. The more you talked with each other, the more you learned about each other. The more you learned about each other, the more the relationship grew. The more the relationship grew, it was likely you found yourself saying something like "I really enjoy being around them". The two of yours conversation was not affected by who or who wasn't around. The conversation was not made less or more, because of what others thought. You had a mutual appreciation for each other's company.

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PARABLE *(continued)*

God gives us the privilege to have a relationship with him. But sometimes our relationship gets replaced with the appearance of a relationship. So instead of talking with God because we are in a relationship, we talk to God so others will think we are in a relationship. God wants a genuine relationship, not the appearance of a relationship.

PRESENT

In Jesus' day there were those who handled their relationship with God in a way that would earn the appreciation of others. These people would pray long, loud, and out in the open so others would see them. There is nothing wrong with loud and long prayer, but when the motive of prayer becomes the appreciation of others, then our motives are wrong. Its one reason why Jesus would say:

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get." Matthew 6:5 NLT

Instead, Jesus wanted to encourage those who would pray, to do it with God in mind, instead of people. He wanted people to fall in love with him more than the culture that belonged to him.

PRACTICE

When you pray keep the right motives in mind. Prayer is not about what others think or don't think. So, pray even when there's no one around. Let your prayer be about getting closer to God.

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PRAY

Jesus, I thank you for the privilege of a relationship with you. I ask that you help me realize the importance of this relationship. I pray that you would put passion in my heart for prayer, and my relationship with you. God when my perspective about prayer is off, help me to get it back on track. Jesus help me to grow in my relationship with you. In Jesus name.

PLUS

This week spend extra time in prayer building your relationship with God. Let him know that you genuinely want to spend time with him.