

## **The Bible's Teachings on Prayer**

PRAYER IS ALWAYS a timely matter that often comes forth in Christian teaching. The understanding of prayer can, nonetheless, easily become blurry. For that reason, it is good to go back to Scripture's teaching about prayer.

In our time, there are many people who don't even pray when they encounter adversity. Being rescued from an impending misfortune is considered good luck or due to one's own skillfulness, not as the protection of God. On the other hand, many depend on prayer in moments of distress. In this way, prayer can become a human achievement of an attempt to correct evil deeds.

Scripture does not teach us to present demands to God or command Him to act according to our desires. Jesus taught us to pray in humbleness, in spirit, and in truth. Prayer is not to emphasize outward matters, for praying does not require certain customs or rituals. Prayer is the simple speech of the heart to God.

The Bible tells of many sincere petitioners. A few of these were Saul of Tarsus, the centurion Cornelius, and the Ethiopian eunuch. God heard their prayers and sent His kingdom's gospel for them to hear. They accepted the gospel through faith and received the strength to become children of God. Also, the Christian person who has found God's kingdom, needs to pray, even though God knows our needs and provides much good for us without our asking. Parents in our, often hurried, time must not tire in teaching their children to pray, nor tire of praying with them or on their behalf. Jesus taught His disciples the familiar "Our Father" prayer. Martin Luther said of it: "To this day I suckle at the Lord's Prayer like a child, and as an old man eat and drink from it and never get m fill." In the Lord's Prayer, we confess God's omnipotence. In it, we petition for all that we need for temporal and eternal life. It also contains a humble plea and confidence: "Thy will be done."

The counsel of Scripture, as well as the exhortation to pray, have a hard time finding people in our information-flooded time. In the difficulties of life, may resort to prayer when all other means are exhausted. We can, however, use the channel of prayer at all times. We pray correctly when we "Call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise and thanksgiving." Jesus exhorted us disciples to watch and pray, so that we would not fall into temptation.

Translated from Paivamies