



Why Pray?
Pastor Brian Richardson
Series Title: The "Y" Series
Sunday, May 6, 2007

Video: Do you pray?

2Chronicles 7:14-15 NLT

Humble
Pray

"Let me pray about it..."

"I don't really want to do that. So if I can stall long enough maybe you will go away."

"Rather than being the source of feelings of joy and victory that it is intended to be, for most of us prayer triggers a sense of guilt and defeat.

Stanley J. Grenz, Prayer: The Cry For The Kingdom

"Of all the activities in which the Christian engages, and which are part of the Christian life, there is surely none which causes so much perplexity, and raises so many problems, as the activity which we call prayer."

Martin Lloyd Jones

Message Title: Why Pray?

We don't pray to tell God something He doesn't already know.

Matthew 6:7-8 Message "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need."

We don't pray to give advice

James 5:16 NLV

"It is one of the shortest Psalms to read, but one of the longest to learn."

Charles Spurgeon

Psalm 131 NLT

The way we normally operate...

Hard work- 99%

Intelligence and good sense- 97%

Higher than average I.Q.- 83%

Being the best in every situation- 62%

Luck- 32%

"In every culture, Christians face a stumbling block that's put before them, but it's decorated as a monument and we don't even realize it's there."

Ambition
Self-Reliance

"We are surrounded by a way of life in which...everyone wants to get more. To be on top, no matter what it is the top of, is admired."

There is nothing recent about the temptation. It is the oldest sin in the book, the one that got Adam thrown out of the garden and Lucifer tossed out of heaven. What is fairly new about it is the general admiration and approval that it receives..."

Eugene Peterson

Psalm 131:1 NLT

Psalm 131:1 Message "God, I'm not trying to rule the roost, I don't want to be king of the mountain. I haven't meddled where I have no business or fantasized grandiose plans."

"Prayer is the language of a person burdened with a sense of need. It is the voice of a beggar, conscious of his poverty, asking of another the thing that he needs...Not to pray is not only to declare that there is nothing needed, but to admit a non-realization of that need."

E.M. Bounds

Where prayer moves us

Psalm 1:2 NLT

"I will not try to run my own life of the life of others; that is God's business. I will not pretend to invent the meaning of the universe; I will accept what God has shown its meaning to be. I will not noisily strut about demanding that I be treated as the center of my family or my neighborhood or my work, but seek to discover where I fit and what I am good at. The soul, clamorously crying out for attention and arrogantly parading its importance, is calmed and quieted so it can be itself, truly."

Eugene Peterson

What this means for all of us

Psalm 131:3 NLT

John 15:4-5 NLT