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Prayer

Prayer is harmonious communion with God in a unity of kinship. It shows understanding that God is a person who is able and willing to hear us. More importantly prayer reveals itself to be a relation of a child of God with his/her Father who is in heaven.

God Himself gives us authority to seek Him in prayer if we forsake sin. The way of approach to God in prayer is restricted to those who have rejected their rebellion of sin and have trusted the saving power of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, His death, burial, and resurrection to life. In this Christ has defeated the results of sin which is eternal death. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Master.”* (Romans 6:23) Therefore, prayer to the Father is by coming in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“No man cometh to the Father but by me.”* (John 14:6)

God's blessings are given in answer to prayer (I Kings 9:3; Ezekiel 36:37; Matthew 7:7). In our limited knowledge we may be blessed at times for God to deny the request we make. The Scriptures encourage us to present our petitions to God, and God decides if the request is something that will be good for us, or for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, or to bring glory to God's purpose. Along with petitions, prayers can also be in the form of adoration, thanksgiving, or confession. (Nehemiah 1:4-11; Daniel 9:3-19; Philippians 4:6)

God's has promised His family that He answers their prayers (Psalm 65:2) James in making note of the long history of prayer in the Bible states, *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* (James 5:16) Prayer is therefore the natural result of our faith toward God and an expression of love that flows from the believer's heart to our Creator, King, and Savior. God so cherishes our prayers that He symbolically likens them to sweet aroma that He saves in golden vials. (Revelation 5:8)