

Introduction

This is a study guide on prayer which is designed to enhance one's knowledge on prayer while providing some enlightening information on prayer and its effectiveness.

This guide will also explore prayer from its history, phenomenon, philosophy, practices, patterns, the practices of prayer, the many different kinds of prayer and what can hinder a prayer's effectiveness. This study guide will enhance one Bible study as each scripture is based on the King James Version of the Bible.

In this study guide, we will make a compelling argument for the value of prayers in the lives of all believers regardless of religious persuasions. The non-believer can go to God in sincere prayer with a repentant heart, and God will hear and answer if the prayer request aligns with the will of God. If one were to study prayer from an objective, psychological point of view, or even study prayer from a historical point of view, prayer has a definite value. Regardless of the religious persuasion prayers are an intricate part of the respective religion and are made to their God. What this tells me is that prayers have great value and the prayer has faith in what he or she prays for to his or her God of that particular religious persuasion. Please note that this is not a knock on any religious belief, but merely pointing out that all religions believe in prayer. With that being said, in the Biblical faith prayer plays a vital role in the believer's life and that the true and living God of this universe encourages prayers as this is the believer's communication with God. Also, Jesus Christ Himself made prayer an essential part of His earthly ministry, and He encouraged His followers to pray daily.

Since the creation of man, he has had an incurable desire to talk with God; this brings into account man being created in the image and likeness of God as God poured His Spirit into man. Therefore, there is a connection between the two. It is well documented in the Christian Bible that God created man to be in fellowship with Him and there was a close relationship between God and man until Adam's sin of disobedience destroyed the fellowship.

Prayers are part of worshipping the Lord God our creator. We worship our Lord when we pray to Him because He is the creator and sustainer of the universe. It is noteworthy to say that in comparative religions prayers are made to their God. Regardless of the religious persuasion of the person he or she believes in the God of that religion and prays to their God for whatever the request may be. That said, prayers are viewed as essential to all religions.

What can we conclude about prayer? We find that prayers are vital to any religious persuasion, and all Christian believers are taught that "prayers of the righteous availeth much" (James 5:16). Also,

prayers are essential to our walk with God as we are establishing a closer relationship with Him.

Lastly, upon completing this study guide, the author hopes that all readers will have a greater awareness of prayer, enhanced knowledge and the value of prayer; make prayer an even more significant part of your daily lives. Most importantly, know that you can boldly go to God as He is listening and will answer your prayers. It will be established in this guide that faith in our prayers hold the key to answered prayers and all Christian believers are to pray in Jesus' name.

From reading this introduction, ponder these questions and provide your answer; (a) did the introduction give you some insight as to what this study guide contains? (b) Did the introduction indicate that there is value in prayer? (c) Of the three definitions provided in chapter 1, what is prayer, which definition are you likely to use to define prayer? (d) Can you explain why there is such a phenomenon with prayer? (e) Did you know that prayer has such long and rich history?