



Some Prayer Gone Askew

By
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Not a lot of people are aware, mostly because it's done so often, that repetitious prayer is not necessarily a good thing. Sure, prayer in itself is a good thing...it is, at its most basic level, the way that we in the material world, communicate with God. However, you know what they say about too much of a good thing... this can happen with prayer, too. When we pray, God already knows what we want, and he already knows if we might (or might not) be deserving of what we're asking Him to bless us for or with.

Take a common prayer for example... requesting a nice day. This is all well and good. There's nothing wrong with asking for a nice day. But what happens if that nice day doesn't come into play? It starts to rain and you start to wonder if God even heard you.

Yes, He heard you... no doubt about it. At this point, our basic instincts kick in, and we resort to the same methods we used with our parents to get our way... we keep asking. However, as we often found out in our childhoods, asking again is not the way to go about things... back then it often resulted in a spanking.

As adults, we can stop and use our minds to figure out why this nice day didn't come to pass. Think... have you kept His commandments? If so, would there be dire consequences for someone else, if a nice day happened? Could someone trying to grow their own food to survive, have met with failure if the rain hadn't come for their crops? In such case, that simple request for a nice day may have been a bit selfish of you.

Next, we take a look at how God, Himself might view being asked over and over again for something. Can you see how at some point, it turns from asking, into nagging? You really don't want to nag God. He loves us and all, but will still punish the naughty. Remember what happened to Aaron the High Priest's two Sons, when they burned the wrong kind of incense? (Leviticus 10:1-2)

So in hindsight, we can clearly see the folly of repetitive prayer. Even Jesus warned us about it in the book of Matthew...

Matthew 6:7

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Jesus knew that God hears all our prayers, and knows what we want and/or need... and no amount of repetition is going to make it any louder, clearer, or any more likely to be granted. So to play it safe, follow this simple rule... Make sure you're right with Him, ask once, thank Him in advance, and wait patiently.

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