



Where To Pray

by
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It has come to my attention that many people are confused about the proper *place* to pray. Sure, most people will go and gravitate towards the church of their choice, once a week, but is this actually commanded of us by God? Surprisingly enough, the answer is a solid “no”.

You can actually pray nearly anyplace that’s convenient, or you can go by what Jesus told us in the book of Matthew, when he was heard to say to his disciples...

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” -- *The New Testament, Matthew 6:6*

This is by no means a directive to stop going to church... church is still a good place to pray. It’s also a good place for fellowship and learning... it’s just not a requirement for the prayer process to work properly. In fact, if you’re not already affiliated with a church, I recommend finding one that best fits your beliefs, and attend regularly.

Regardless of where you pray, it would seem that the more private that the place of prayer is, the more likely you are to receive an answer. We can tell by a long study of the Bible that the majority of times that God has contacted someone directly or via an angelic messenger, it was with someone that was (at the time) alone, and separated from the general public (see also: Moses, Abraham, to mention a couple) ...but this just raises more questions, since God is omnipresent, and will hear your prayer no matter where it is uttered.

However, no matter where you decide prayer will work best, there are a couple of things to watch out for...

- a. First, as mentioned in my previous article about how to pray, don’t do it repetitiously, and above all, although open prayer is good, and shows you’re not ashamed of having a relationship with God, do not pray in the open, *just* to be heard praying. That’s not a good thing, and its vein.
- b. Perhaps, as long as you’re not looking for a group effort, we can stick with what Jesus told us, and head for the nearest prayer closet that you’re allowed access to.
- c. And as also mentioned in my “How To Pray” article, make sure not to pray for that which could be construed as selfish.

I’m sure by now, there are several folks getting ticked off at me, and are ready to tell me I’m “full of it”, or I just don’t understand, but do any of us really and truly understand? I’m just relaying information that’s gathered by observation... it’s all still open to debate and further study. Since there is no true final word on *where* to pray, let’s all just agree to disagree until such time as God tells us otherwise.

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