

The Importance of Prayer

The point of the Lord God's, purpose for our very being, our flesh and blood, earthly lives is, if lived according to the Lord's, good commandments, (or more importantly for most of us true Christians, *earnestly trying* to live by the Lord's, commandments) is to build *character*. Not just any old sort of character, but a righteous character. Now the only way that any of us have any hope of getting anywhere near to that aim, is by firstly getting to know our heavenly Father's, character. So how can we do this? None of the world's so-called 'christian' churches provide the right way. Sure, they 'go through the motions', through the pretence of seeming to be righteous, God, fearing organisations who are 'in contact' with the Lord God Almighty, and who adhere to His, rules and His, appointed ceremonies and feast days etc. But they do not. They do all things by and through their own, evilly conceived and contrived 'ways and means'. They have invented for themselves their own ceremonies and feasts, they have arrogantly and wickedly cast aside the Lord God's, appointed Sabbath day, and replaced it with a totally different day which they call 'sunday'. They fill their expensive to build and maintain buildings which they erroneously call 'churches', with a multitude of idols portraying their self appointed 'saints' and 'martyrs' and 'virgin mary's' and monstrocities of a tortured to death human being supposed to be the murdered, Jesus Christ. Smaller versions of all of these things can be conveniently bought in their 'church' gift shops, to be taken home and worshipped there. They have even 'sold' to the world their version of the calendar, named after one of their 'popes', and their priests and ministers are for the most part just a bunch of 'in house' trained opportunists, who have landed for themselves a nice little, well- paid, cushy, job for life. Why do these clergy insist on practising that which is contrary to the will of Almighty God? Is God's, will, too difficult for them to obey? Or can we dare to suppose that these clergy have been given 'free rein', by the Lord, to continue along their roads of multiple blasphemies, leading millions and millions who blindly follow them, astray, lost in a web of spiritual intrigue and lies, so that we few who earnestly try to obey God's, good will, may shine and stand out all the more brightly? Now, before going any further with this article, I would just like to steer away from the main theme for just a moment or two, and I would like the reader to consider this. I think that most of us know that Jesus Christ, is the Word, made flesh and blood, as mentioned in **John 1: 1-5**. *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him is life, and the life is the light of men. And the light shone in darkness, and the darkness did not understand it.'* So, the Word, our God, *became flesh and blood*, He was murdered, arose from the dead, ascended to His heavenly father and then came back to make Himself known *and* to be physically handled by His apostles and others that He knew. But there was one big difference now, Jesus, could materialise and de-materialise at will. He was both spirit being and 'physical' at the same time. He, had a warm fleshly body, He, ate food, He, let others touch Him, so that they could see for themselves that for all intents and purposes He, had a body just like theirs. But with one big difference! We know He, had flesh on a skeletal frame, but did any blood flow through His, veins? Let's read **1 Corinthians 15: 50**. *'Now this I say bretheren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, neither does corruption inherit incorruption.'* Now let's have a read of **Leviticus 17: 11**. *'For the life of the*

flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.` And now **Matthew 26: 28.** `For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.`

Maybe, just maybe, now, instead of blood flowing through the `veins` of His, fleshly body, (a physical body which can be chosen to be `used` or not) our God, our Creator, Jesus Christ, now has pure, powerful, indestructable, living `spirit`. So, as we know, in normal physical life, blood, as the scriptures have informed us, *is* `the life`, so then would we be wrong to conclude that in the next life, (our life as spirit beings), that the blood for our `fleshly bodies` is superseded by `spirit` which now flows through us and sustains us? As stated earlier, we know that Jesus Christ, is the `Word`, but no longer existing as flesh *and* blood, for He, Himself, stated in **Luke 22: 37.** `... for the things concerning Me, have an end.` meaning that the things concerning His, flesh *and* blood life, on this earth, had an end, an end which was fulfilled by His, crucifixion and resulting death on the torture cross-piece. Having lived as a human upon this earth, and now having a better understanding of human weaknesses and to be able to better empathise with them, our Lord God, Creator, Jesus Christ, has provided the way for each and every one of us to get in contact with Him, on a one to one basis, through personal prayer, instead of having to go through a priest. He, now knows what we are experiencing, because He, has experienced it and worse, Himself. Let`s read **Hebrews 2: 9-10.** `But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, so that He, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man. Because it became Him, for whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.`

Now, having gone away somewhat from the `storyline` of this article, I`ll now return to the main theme. Our God, our Creator, wants us, His, children, to get to know Him. We view Him, from our position of creation which is as **Psalms 8: 5.** tells us is, `... a little lower than the angels. ...` It would appear that our God, wants us to *work* at getting to know Him, so that in doing so our knowledge of Him, becomes indelibly `etched` upon our very being. Of course He, could easily demonstrate His, awesome power and might to us as He, has done in the past to earlier generations, but this is already documented for us in the scriptures, and it is up to us to believe it or not, and anyway, can we really get to know somebody just by watching a `performance` or by simply believing that it once took place? No. As mentioned earlier, the main purpose of our existence as weak, flesh and blood beings, is to build Godly, character. So how do we go about doing this, building a character for ourselves that is, for the most part, on the way to becoming wholly acceptable to the Lord God? How can we become, at the time of our death, composed of `the right stuff`, to have built this character that will be crucial to our very salvation? Well, this is not such a difficult question to answer, but on the other hand, it is not such an easy undertaking for a person to perform, continually, and faithfully. First, we must get to know our God, before He, can get to know us. We must introduce ourselves to *Him*, and not expect Him, to constantly come looking for us. He, will `call` any number of us, but we must be able to recognize His, `voice` when He, does so, for how else can we be expected to respond to it? We must seek Him, then He, will be faithful and will call us and then we will be able to recognize His, `voice`. For many of us who are `called`, we may not respond right away, we acknowledge that `something` has happened but we are not quite sure what, and we put whatever `it` is to the `back of our minds`, but `it` does not go away, `it` nags and worries and `it` will not be brushed aside or ignored, until `it` is accorded recognition and is given the due attention `it` requires. Such is the Lord`s, dedication to those whom He, calls, but being `called` is only the *beginning* of a long, exciting, journey, a journey

which many fail to complete, mainly because they lose or deliberately forsake their `contact` with their `Caller`, Almighty God, thus leaving themselves wide open to attack from Satan, and his demons. It is of no use to any of us spiritually if the only time that the Lord, gets to `hear` from us, is after we have ignored Him, for years and we find ourselves in trouble and we have then turned to Him, for help, only as a last resort. Possibly, worse still, is if the only time that a person is `made known` to the Lord, is upon that person`s death, and they are merely counted amongst the billions of luke warm and the criminally `boiling hot`. (Of course the Lord, knows all humans that He has created, but like most human parents, He, only `provides` for those that He, considers to be `legitimate` children of His. See **Hebrews 12: 5-11.**) No, we, if we are to be considered as dutiful sons and daughters of the Lord God, should keep in touch with Him, daily, making ourselves continuously known to Him, keeping Him, informed of all our failings and misgivings and fears. Ever wondered what *actually* makes so many of us get down daily, upon our knees before our God and pray? Well, it`s usually because of the realisation that we have sinned, and we *all* sin *every* day, and when we come to accept that fact, and that we need His, forgiveness daily, we can begin to understand the wonderful way in which the Lord, has planned everything for us, beginning in the garden of Eden, when Eve, committed the first sin by listening to and believing the lying words of Satan, instead of the true words of the Lord God. Yes, the Lord, for those of us who will accept it, has even found a perfect use for our sins, by making the realisation of them and the need to be forgiven of them, one of the chief driving forces for us to daily `get in touch` with Him, through prayer, because what sins we commit against others, ultimately, those sins are committed against the Lord God. He, is were `the buck stops`. Let`s read **Psalm 51: 4.** `Against You, and You, only, have I sinned, and committed this evil in Your sight, that You might be justified when You speak, and be blameless when You judge.` But, even though the Lord, has provided a perfect use for our sins, should we then take advantage of that fact by adopting a callous mindset that allows sin to be a compulsory, and almost a necessary part of our lives `because it helps to keep us in touch with our heavenly Father`? Well, no, for example, what flesh and blood human father would not take a greater delight in one of his children who constantly kept in touch with him because they loved him, rather than one who kept in touch with him only because they constantly needed to be `bailed out`? Let`s have a look at a scripture or two that practising Christians should bear in mind, I will run them on, one after the other. **Romans 5: 20-21.** and **Romans 6: 1-2.** and **Romans 6: 14-16.** `Moreover, the law entered so that the offence (the sin) might abound. (be seen to be very sinful) But were sin abounded, grace did much more abound. That as sin has reigned to death, even so might grace reign through righteousness to eternal life, by Jesus Christ. What shall we do then? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? God forbid! How shall we that are dead to sin, live in sin any longer? For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid. Don`t you know that to whom you give yourselves as servants to obey, then servants you become to the one that you obey, whether servants of sin which leads to death, or servants of obedience to God`s laws, which will lead to righteousness.` We all sin, every single human being that has ever lived, (except of course Jesus Christ!) is living and is yet to live, has sinned or will sin, and in order to not be judged because of our sins, we need to ask forgiveness of our sins *every day*, in prayer, on our knees before the throne of God, and with a right attitude of contriteness of heart. And it works! How do I know? Because the scriptures tell me so, let`s have a read of **1 John 1: 8-10.** `If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and

to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.` Our great, high, God, wants each and every one of us to get to know Him, but few of us choose to try to do so. Yes, He, wants us to get to know Him, but not as we have grown to know the people who are our friends and relatives etc., not by the seeing of the eyes, and the hearing of the voice, the touch of the flesh, the sharing of laughter and physical companionship, things which, although pleasing to us, tend to distract from the spirituality of a particular person`s character, leading us to opinions about that person being influenced by their physical appearance and `presence`. I think that God, knows that if we were to be allowed to behold Him, in all of His, glory, in all of His, awesome presence, we poor humans would probably wilt and give up in desperate despair thinking to our individual selves, `how can I possibly get to know this, this `alien` being, this magnificent `alien` super intelligence? We can understand that if this were to be the case, then it would be our eyes that would be the main communicators to us as regards the `make-up` of our loving, God, and as we know, our eyes cannot give us a real and comprehensive insight into anybody`s or any thing`s, true character. Almighty God, for the time being, wants us to `see` Him, with our hearts and our minds, for even when He, came to us in the shape and form of the man, Jesus Christ, He, was nothing `special` to look at, let`s read **Isaiah 53: 2.** `For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. He has no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty to look upon so that we should desire Him.` In **Luke 10: 27.** Jesus, tells us to `...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as your self.` Now, hopefully, each of us should know whether we love our neighbour or not, because I presume that over the years we have come to `know` them, for better or for worse. So, the question must be asked, can anybody be expected to love somebody that they do not even know? Well the honest answer to that question must be a resounding, NO. And it must be so with those professing `christians` who say that they `love` the Lord, but in fact they do not know Him, they have *never* known Him, *so how can they possibly love Him?* Most have left `all the praying` to be done by their appointed priest or minister who they might see once a week on a holy day that men have created that goes by the name of `sunday`. Let`s have a read of the words spoken by Jesus in **John 4: 22.** `You worship what you do not know, but we know what we worship, because salvation is of the Jews.` Now I know those words were directed to a Samaritan woman thousands of years ago but the underlying *all encompassing* truth of them remains. **If you do not know the God, that you worship, then your salvation is at risk**. This poses a question, can a minister or a priest, or any member of any clergy of any religion, who profess to `know God`, can they impart to another person unwavering, unquestionable faith and conviction, that the Lord God Almighty, truly exists and is close at hand and reachable? The answer? No, no they cannot, a person must experience for themselves the very presence of the Lord, and this can *only* be achieved through prayer. Because once a person prays to the Lord, then that person automatically acknowledges that the Lord, is a God, who is reachable and therefore close at hand and not a God, who is far from them. Let`s read **Jeremiah 23-24.** `Am I a God who is close at hand, says the Lord, and not a God who is far away? Can any hide themselves in secret places so that I shall not see him? says the Lord, Do not I fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.` It`s so simple, we make the effort to get to know God, through prayer, then He, because of our daily contact with Him, gets to know us, and like any good and loving Father, He will not ignore nor will He, abandon His, children. We know that we should love our neighbour, and help them whenever they are seen to need it (of course this applies even more so with a family member). But we cannot help them if if we do not know what

he or she is in need of. If, over the months and years, a personal relationship has been built between yourself and your neighbour, you will instinctively 'feel' when something is not quite as it should be, and you will ask them if everything is alright, and then a dialogue will open up between you and you can discuss the problem if one exists, although several attempts may have to be made before the whole truth is forthcoming. And this happens because you *know* one another and a mutual trust exists between you both, and you realise that 'a problem shared, is a problem halved'. Now, without wanting to appear flippant, our relationship with our God, should be the same as with our neighbour, but much more intense, because our God, will not tire of our continual 'hammering at His, door', until we get a response from Him, and sometimes this is what we have to do to make ourselves heard above our 'siblings'. Let's have a read of the words of Jesus Christ, in **Luke 11: 5-13**. 'And He said to them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight and say to him, friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has come to visit me on his journey and I have no food to give him. And he from within shall answer him and say, Don't bother me, my door is now shut and my children are with me in bed, I cannot get up and tend to your needs. I say to you, that although he will not get up and tend to him even though he is his friend, he will, because of his bold persistence, get out of bed and give him as many loaves as he needs. And I say to you, Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and you shall find, knock, and it shall be opened to you. For every one that asks receives, and he that seeks finds, and to him that knocks, it shall be opened. If a son asks any of you that is a father, for bread, will he give him a stone? or if he ask for a fish, will he give him a serpent? or if he ask for an egg, will he give him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the holy spirit to them that ask Him?' It is of little use to us if we suddenly decide to 'knock on the door of the Lord', (I'm referring to long term 'christians' here) having previously ignored the opportunity to do so for years and years. What good has it been to anybody over the years if they appear at the 'Lord's, door', world weary, exhausted and encumbered and heavily laden down with years of accumulated sin and troubles which they could have rid themselves of on a daily basis through sincere, *personal* prayer? It's the same old story, when times are 'easy' for people they cast the Lord God, to one side, and then one day they discover that they need Him, *desperately need Him*, but they have 'forgotten' how to 'find' Him. Let's have a look at **Isaiah 55: 6**. 'Seek you the Lord while He may yet be found, call you, upon Him, while He is near.' Let's face it, if somebody you don't know, or even somebody that you once knew, suddenly, 'out of the blue', turned up on *your* doorstep with a whole heap of problems and 'unsavoury' troubles, and asked for your help, what would be your reaction? Many, I would suppose, would say some thing like, 'do I know you? and if I do, where have you been all of these years? I thought that you were dead, if only you had come sooner then I would have been able to help you, but now your troubles are beyond anything that I can do for you.' Fortunately, our God, is better placed to deal with *all* 'cares and woes' than any human being ever could be, let's continue with **Isaiah 55**. this time **verse 7**. 'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.' But do not leave it too late, nobody lives forever in this life, it's no good deciding to repent tomorrow when unbeknown to you, you are going to die today! So there is no reason why any true Christian should suffer needlessly because of unrepentant of sin because they deliberately ignored the Lord God, by allowing a priest, minister or otherwise, to take the responsibility of communicating with the Lord, through prayer that they say *they* will offer on that person's behalf. In life, a person with any sense does not suffer a cut or even a scratch and

just leave it to ache and fester until it `cries out` for attention before deciding to treat it. No, the `wound` would be treated as soon as it occurred in order to prevent any possible infection. And yet, so many professing `christians` treat their relationship with the Lord God, the same way as a neglected cut or scratch, leaving it until nearly all the unclean things in this world that can infect it have infected it, even allowing gangrene to set in, and when that happens, amputation is the usual outcome. Yes, sadly for the majority of the people of this world, including the `religious types`, it's a case of `I'm alright Lord, don't bother me, and I won't bother You,` until of course their happy, self centred little world comes crashing down around them, and then what happens? Well, many of them, instead of calling out to God, in prayer, for help and forgiveness, turn against Him, and begin to blame Him, for all of their self-inflicted troubles and woes. Nobody, it seems, is `man enough` to take the blame any more, it's always somebody else's fault, and the Lord God Almighty, is such a convenient `whipping boy` for them! Only through the medium of sincere and *regular*, loving, *personal* prayer, can a person make themselves known (for the *right reasons*) to the Lord. This cannot be achieved by a once a week or whatever visit to the local `church` were all of the prayers for all of the gathered congregation are `offered up` by a member of the clergy who, when all is said and done, is often nothing more than a paid employee of the `state`. *Jesus Christ, suffered terribly and was tortured to death so that we don't have to use a priest or a minister in order to `get in touch` through personal prayer, with God the Father or Jesus, Himself. If we ignore this fact, then we are saying basically, that Jesus Christ, wasted His, time, and suffered and died needlessly for us.* It is strange and wonderful when we consider this fact; We have got to know most of our friends and accept them for what they are, and we like and love them because of, and even in spite of, their little foibles and personality traits. For the most part they are agreeable and do us no real harm, and we all get along just fine, patching up and smoothing over any `fallouts` that may occur between ourselves, pretty quickly. On the other hand, the Lord God, has consented to get to know us, (who are `in touch` with Him) mostly because of all the things that we have done to `upset` Him, by the commandments that we have broken and have asked of Him, forgiveness, for breaking them. How many of us can honestly say that when we get on our knees before God, we start with something like, `Good news Lord, I've been perfect in your sight today. .`? Yes, unlike us humans, who really only love one another because we `like` one another, (family members excluded) the Lord God, our heavenly Father, treats *all* who come to Him, in regular, sincere, personal prayer, as members of His, family. You know, love, real love, does not get any better or more sincere than that! When Jesus Christ, has returned to this earth and there comes a certain time when all who hope to be with Him, are gathered, there are going to be some who are bitterly disappointed, for He will turn to them and say; *Matthew 7; 21-23.* `Not everyone that says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of My Father, which is in heaven. Many will say to Me, in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name? and in Your name have cast out demons? and in Your name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I never knew you, depart from Me, you that work evil.` Jesus, is in effect saying here, that although you thought that you knew Me, you did not and do not, and therefore neither do I, know you. And why not? Because these people went about doing their `work` for the Lord God, in their own way, by ways of their own inventions, by keeping their `sundays` instead of the Sabbath day, by keeping all of their blasphemous `holy` days, their `christmasses` and their `easters` and their abominable `hallowe`ens` instead of keeping the Lord God's, holy days and appointed feast days. These people went with the easy `flow` of the great, Satanic, false church's `mystery religion` and poured scorn on and made life difficult for the few who kept the true holy

days of the Lord, even dragging away and condemning many of them to death. So what should we suppose will happen to these `false Christians`, well, let`s read **Matthew 7: 2.** `For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged, and with what measure you give, it shall be measured to you again.` In this current world of billions of deceived human souls, I wonder how many of these `believers`, realise that mere belief in God, the one, true, Almighty Lord God, is simply *not enough*. Just `believing` in God, does not get anybody any closer to Him. Let`s read **James 2: 18-20.** `Yes, a man may say, You have faith, and I have works, show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God, you do well, the demons also believe (know) that, and they tremble. (at the very thought) but know this, O foolish man, that faith without works, is dead.` It would seem that many of these `christian` believers, have made for themselves, in their own minds, a `cosy` relationship with the Lord God. Many have convinced themselves that He, has so much in common with them, so it`s alright for them to look after and honour Him, in their own invented little ways, and that in return, He, is going to help them have a `happy` life. Unfortunately, when things get this `intimate` and `pally` with the Lord God, observances such as the true holy days and the ten commandments, get `thrown out of the window`, along with any love and respect for the truth of biblical teachings and any willingness to listen to and learn from true Christians who practice such things. This twisted mindset also brings with it false hope, worthless knowledge, feigned love, no feeling of guilt for sins committed, and worst of all, no need for regular, personal prayer, which in turn leads to a life of mostly ignoring God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and this then leads to a life of bondage under the direct, `hands on`, rule of Satan and his millions of demons. Let`s have a read of the words of Jesus Christ, in **Matthew 8: 11-12.** `And I say to you, That many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom, shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.` and in **Matthew 22: 11-14.** `And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man who was not wearing a wedding garment: And he says to him, Friend, how did you come to be here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.` From that last scripture, we may understand that the `uninvited` wedding guest had been very presumptuous, even arrogant, in assuming that he had the right to be where he was at the wedding festivities. He would appear to have been quite comfortable and at ease there, thinking that as he `knew` the wedding hosts, they in turn would know him, (and they probably did, better than he knew himself!) until of course he was informed of his fatal error of judgment. He was not even given the opportunity to `leave quietly`, just the opposite in fact, a great show must have been made of him being bound and cast away into `outer darkness`. We, who are striving to be true Christians, must be constantly battling to keep in touch with and so get to know our great God. Make no mistake, it is a battle, a battle fought in the middle of a war that is constantly raging invisibly, all around each and every one of us. Our battle is a spiritual one, and it will, if we do not surrender, last a lifetime. For the final scripture of this article we`ll read from **Ephesians 6: 11-18.** `Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of Satan. For we do not battle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Therefore put on whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins belted in truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, by which you will be able to extinguish all of the fiery arrows of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. We can be sure, that if the Lord God, knows us, because we have continually strived through our earnest prayers to keep in daily touch with Him, and to get to know Him, and to love Him, and keep his commandments, (see John 14: 15.) that He, does indeed love us. And His, love for us will never die, and neither if we have remained faithful, shall we ever die, for this is His, promise and commitment to His, beloved children. Let each and every one of us then be sure of our commitment to Him, through daily communication by way of prayer.