

Just a Thought ...

Have you ever wondered whether your prayers do any good? I know. How could I say such a worldly statement. Come on! Don't be so spiritual; you have thought it too. Those of us who have grown up in the Christian community have been taught that God answers prayer; ah, yes - the three answers - "yes", "no", and "wait". I felt like an evil wretch if I even breathed that thought under my breath.

Let's face it - for most of us, our prayer lives are rather weak. Praying regularly is the preference but how many of us do that. Bless you if you do. I don't. I should & I need to (and I know it), but I am not consistent. Oh yes, we pray really hard when something horrible has happened or might happen, or if we want a good thing to occur. No, I haven't forgotten praying at meals; we do that because someone who is with us expects it.

Why is prayer such a battle for me? Is it because I do not believe there is a God listening? Sure. Some might think that. Is it because I don't think He is interested? Possibly. Is it because I don't think God is capable of handling the issue? Probably not. Is it because several of my prayers do not seem to have been answered? Could be. How about this one: why should I bother if God is not seeing the issue the same way I am; obviously, He sees the correct view of things & He knows the right way to do things.

Repeatedly, I have prayed for a certain political or governmental issue. The way I prayed (yes, my preference in the prayer) did not succeed. I might feel like, "Lord, it is clear to me that this was the wrong choice or the wrong policy. Why are you letting evil prevail? Can you imagine me telling God what His plan & will should be? Pretty dumb, right? Can I just say that it is still a struggle; you too at times?"

Help from the Bible ...

1. 1 John 5:14 - "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we _____ anything according to His _____, He _____ us."
2. 1 John 1:9 - "If we _____ our sins, He is _____ and just to _____ our sins, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."
3. Psalm 145:18 - "The Lord is _____ to all who _____ upon Him, to all who _____ upon Him in _____."
4. Proverbs 15:8 - "The sacrifice (religious activities) of the wicked is an abomination to the _____, but the _____ of the upright is God's _____."
5. Matthew 5:44 - "But I (Jesus) say to you, '_____ your enemies, _____ those who curse you, do _____ to those who hate you, and _____ for those spitefully _____ you and _____ you.'"
6. Matthew 26:41 - Jesus said to His sleepy disciples, "_____ and _____, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit (your spirit) is _____ (ready & prepared), but the flesh is _____."
7. Philippians 4:6 - "Be _____ for nothing, but in everything by _____ and _____, with _____, let your _____ be made known unto God;"
8. Colossians 4:2 - "Continue earnestly in _____, being vigilant in it with _____."
9. James 4:3 - "You _____ and do not _____, because you ask _____ (with the wrong motives), so that you can spend it on your own _____."