

Did You Think To Pray?

by Wayne Goff

Prayer was a constant in the earthly life of Jesus Christ. He prayed at the *beginning* of His ministry when He was baptized by John (Lk. 3:21-22). He prayed in Gethsemane just before His arrest, trial and *crucifixion* (Matt. 26:36-44). He prayed on the *cross* (Lk. 23:34-36).

Jesus arose early in the morning to pray before the start of a busy, stressful day (Mk. 1:35). At the zenith of His popularity, when “*great multitudes*” came to hear Him and to be healed (Lk. 5:15), Jesus “*often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed*” (Lk. 5:16).

Obviously, prayer was a **great source** of strength, comfort and encouragement to Jesus while He was on earth. Does this surprise you? It surprises me, or at least it *used to surprise me*. One would think that Jesus, the Son of God, perfect in spirit, would not need Divine help from His Father. But the continued fellowship with His Father in prayer was a regular part of His daily life. He prayed for Himself, for others, and for the success of His work. Yes, this was once a surprise to me, to be honest.

Why then do we so often have to **make** ourselves pray? Why do we have to **learn** to pray as we ought? The disciples asked Jesus to *teach them how to pray* after they saw how important it was to Him. And I suspect that if you and I ever saw Jesus as He prayed that we would feel *insufficient* in our prayers as well.

The best answer I have now is that **great prayer** is connected to **great faith**. Jesus was perfectly obedient to the Father in all things while He was on earth¹ (Heb. 5:8-9; Jn. 10:17; Jn. 8:29). That was His mission as He came to seek and save the lost. So if you and I want to be stronger in prayer then we will have to grow stronger in our faith. It's that simple. Study God's Word. Contemplate the Father's message to a lost and dying world. Learn to be more spiritually minded. As we draw closer in our faith to God and heaven, I suspect that our prayers will be rich, deep and meaningful too.

“Ere you left your room this morning, did **you** think to pray?”

¹See page four for references to Jesus' obedient life.

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