



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

Prayer is one of the most talked about subjects, yet the most misunderstood. We must understand the basis on which we can be assured God will respond.

The first and foremost understanding is a proper relationship with Jesus. One can't be partaking in sinful ways habitually and expect God to respond to your prayers. "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." (I John 5:11-12) Our relationship with God is based on our relationship to His Son. It means we must have a genuine, sincere heart toward the Lord, walk where He walks, looking to His blood for our constant cleansing. We must possess His life!

We must see things from Jesus' perspective. As Jesus taught His own disciples to pray (Matt. 6), listen to what He teaches about the assurance of God's hearing. We must be sincere and have pure motives in our approach (v.5). God is aware of you and looks at your heart approach to Him (v.6). Our prayer must have meaning and not just words spoken out of memorized statements (v.7). Prayer is not a side thought! Prayer is an awareness that God already holds the answers and knows everything needed before we ask Him (v.8). It means placing faith in Him, trusting because He does know. It takes on a blessed assurance. That in itself should make us flee to Him at all times in prayer. It must be made perfectly clear from your heart that you have reverence for His holy name (v.9). He's not like us on earth. That should lead us into a submissive attitude toward His will in our heart (v.10). Prayer is where our faith reaches out knowing our "daily bread" depends on Him completely (v.11). We realize our own weakness and sinfulness, and can ask Him for His constant covering of our sins through the death of His Son. But forgiveness is not extended unless you are willing to forgive those who sinned against you (v.12). It's useless to pray and hold ill feelings in our heart toward others! Prayer is recognizing where God will lead us (v.13). God won't tempt you or lead you in ways that will cause you to sin. Prayer is depending on God, looking to God, walking with God for every step in our lives.

Prayer is the avenue in which we commit ourselves to the will of God. Prayer done as duty is not prayer at all. Prayer done because of our salvation in Christ Jesus thrills the heart of God. Prayer honors God! Prayer is essential for growth and spiritual maturity! How do you pray? Think about it!!!

Brent