

Light Workers - RUN 15 - Game of Life - (Thank You Pine Trees)

May 31, 2024

7PM RUN 15 Runway Show

RUN 15 MAY 31, 2024
 THIS SHOW IS
 MADE FOR
 THE COMMISSION OF
ONE - - - - -
 LIGHTWORKERS:
 RUN 15 - GAME OF LIFE -
 (THANK YOU PINE TREES)

MUSICIANS
 1. AKI
 2. PALOMA
 3. HANA
 4. ALEXI
 5. LILAC

POETRY
 - - - - -
 COCO

MODELS PERFORMERS
 1. HANA
 2. COCO
 3. IMAN
 4. SOIL
 5. HAYA
 6. Diamond
 7. Sarah & Malli
 8. Kat
 9. Mike
 10. Stella
 11. Aki
 12. Lee
 13. Olivia
 14. Sophie & Claire
 15. Maryam
 16. Anais
 17. Nick
 18. Laura

MAKE UP
 WET & Day
 WILD logic
 DOLLFACE
 MAYBELLINE
 Loreal Revolution
 SHOES

FROM
 MARYAM NASSIR
 ZADEH

schell jewelry
 COLLABORATION
 WITH
 ANNA SANTANGELO

THANK YOU
 BRIDGET
 DONAHUE
 GALLERY
 NIK
 BEB
 IZZY
 EMILIO
 LILAC
 ASYA

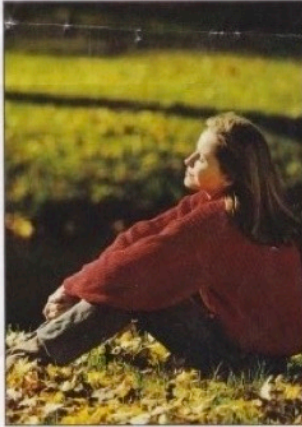
Touch Points
FRIEND TO FRIEND

Prayer— Friendship With the Giver

LARRY YEAGLEY

A faith healer placed his hands on his sick child. For six weeks he prayed, insisting—demanding—that God heal his child. The child died.

"God didn't keep His promise," the faith healer said. "I can never trust God again. I can't read the Bible anymore. I can't pray or preach." Again and again he quoted Mark 11:24: "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you" (NASB).^{*} He resigned from his pastorate.



Taken by itself, this Bible verse would condemn God as untrustworthy. The pastor prayed about his desire. He did believe, but God didn't keep His part of the bargain. This verse, by itself, would allow the pastor the right to come to such a conclusion.

Therein lies the problem. A belief about prayer that is based upon only one verse doesn't stand the test of life's realities. Prayer, like any other topic, can be understood only by looking at all the evidence. If there are 20 statements about prayer in the Scriptures, our concept of prayer must not be out of harmony with any of those statements. It is also important to study the prayer history of the great men and women of the Bible.

WORK IT OUT

With the principles of Bible interpretation in mind, consider some of the major concepts of prayer found in the Bible.

1. *Sincere prayer is preceded by a desire to have a relationship with God.*
2. *A praying person allows God to lead him or her in obedience to God's revealed will.*
3. *Prayer is communicating with God about every aspect of life. It is far broader than requesting favors.*
4. *In our limited understanding, we don't always know exactly what God's will is. We don't know the best way to pray.*

5. *Our prayers should be patterned after the prayers of Jesus. He always told His heavenly Father, "Not My will, but Your will, be done."*

6. *In the Scriptures prayers for healing of the body were not always answered according to human desire. Prayers for spiritual healing were always answered with forgiveness and strength to bring about lifestyle change.*

7. *God's thoughts and ways are beyond human understanding. We may not comprehend His response to our prayer, but the response does not negate His mercy and love.*

PRAYER IS
MEANINGLESS
UNTIL WE KNOW
THE PERSON TO
WHOM WE ARE
PRAYING.

The pastor's concept of prayer did not harmonize with the biblical principles of prayer. His demands upon God were based solely upon his perspective, not God's. Disillusionment and distrust resulted.

Prayer is meaningless until we know the Person to whom we are praying. Answers serve only to satisfy the self-centered spirit if we don't have a friendship with the Answerer. Gifts are taken for granted if we don't love the Giver.

Misconceptions of God often produce misconceptions of prayer.

In God's effort to save the human race from eternal destruction, He didn't spare His own Son. By the same token, He withholds nothing that is essential to the

beautifying of our characters. Even the tragedies of this life can be used by Him to deepen our spiritual relationships.

God's answers to our prayers are processed through His foreknowledge, not through our tunnel vision. We pray in our weakness; God answers out of His strength. We pray in our poverty; God answers out of His riches. We ask for blessings that can be contained in a shoe box; God is ready to fill an 18-wheeler.

Perhaps this is why Jean Ingelow said, "I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered."

Hannah More wrote, "Did not God sometimes withhold in mercy what we ask, we should be ruined at our own request."

Henri J. M. Nouwen pictured praying as living. It's more than saying grace at the table or pleading with God when a crisis is upon us. Praying is inviting God's guidance in every segment of life's journey. Fervent prayer is emptying our hands of selfish ambitions so that God can fill them with good things.

When prayer is a constant effort to appease an arbitrary, vindictive God, fear dominates the person who prays.

When prayer is an active friendship with a personal Lord, there is a deep and abiding peace that cannot be ruffled in times of testing.

Prayer is a hazardous journey when we draw up the terms for God. We constantly worry about reaching the destination.

Prayer that yields to God's will eliminates fear and worry about the road ahead. God's provisions are equal to the demands of our travels.

The closest friends in my life listen attentively as I share my hopes, joys, and sorrows. I don't have to calculate how to put thoughts into words—I can be transparent, knowing that I will be accepted and understood. Friends make me feel secure. I like to listen to my friends because their words deepen our relationship.

God is the best friend. There isn't anything we cannot share with Him. He has many ways of speaking to us. We can open our hearts to each other. Don't worry if you can't speak eloquently in your prayers. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit translates our faltering words into the language of heaven. Your heart longings will be clearly understood.

Perhaps you've met a person who talks constantly. You'd like to be part of the conversation, but the individual doesn't pause long enough for you to say a word. An hour later you manage to pull away, but you vow that you'll avoid any future meetings.

THERE'S HOPE!

Prayer is more than talking. It is a two-way encounter with One who has vital information about living life to the fullest. How do you listen? By

reading and meditating on passages of the Bible. Meditation means thinking deeply about how you can incorporate the promises and principles of Scripture into your everyday life. It means spending quiet time, allowing what the passage said to become part of you.

The Spirit who inspired the writers of Scripture speaks to our minds as we read and meditate. The psalmist speaks about treasuring God's Word in his heart and meditating on God's precepts. He asks God to open his eyes to see wonderful things in the law (Psalm 119:18).

Our firstborn son spent 22 short years facing the challenges of life in this world. Through prayer the joys and sorrows gave sinew to his character. He completely entrusted the refining of faith into the skilled hands of God. The words that he wrote and set to music near the close of his life reveal his deep understanding of prayer. May this understanding be ours as we ponder his words.

BLAST FURNACE

Create me a-clean, O hearth-God!
Unearth and crack, hammer, crush me,
With blast-furnace breath burn,
Unblemish, melt me.
And sear, smelt
But spare

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL HELP

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *With Open Hands* (Notre Dame, Ind.: Ave Maria Press, 1972).

Michael Card, *A Sacred Song* (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Navpress, 2005).

Harold S. Kushner, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm* (New York: Anchor Books, 2003).

Eugene H. Peterson, *Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer* (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1989).

Larry Yeagley, a retired hospital chaplain, served for many years as a hospice chaplain volunteer. His hospice and grief recovery programs have been widely used. Previously published books include Life After Loss, Heartache and Healing, Touched by Fire, Beyond Loneliness, God's Gift of Forgiveness, Beyond Anger, and A Tree Across My Road.

^{*}Scripture quotations marked NASB are from the New American Standard Bible, copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1994 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Me.

I am

Too much in me,

Too much dirt, dross, and clay.

These are mine, O earth-God, mine them!

Do not cast out but recast in

Thy kingdom-come-will-be-done

Shape.

—Jeffrey L. Yeagley