

## Too Busy to pray?

Contributed by Administrator  
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### The Characteristics of Prayer By Alice Smith

". . . rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer . . ." -- Romans 12:12, KJV Too often prayer is our last resort rather than our first response, Robert. The apostle Paul challenged the Christians in Rome to be instant in prayer (Rom. 12:12, KJV). The next time you hear the whine of an ambulance's siren or hear the report of a tragedy on the television news or listen to a troubled person pour out his heart to you, ask yourself, "How am I to pray?"

Do you think you are too busy to pray? Even nature needs to pay attention to the needs around it. Some years ago, many hives of bees were brought from a cold climate to the tropical island of Barbados. Right away the bees went to work, gathering honey for the winter, which their instinct taught them to expect. The winter didn't come, however, and the bees became lazy. They stopped gathering honey. They spent their time flying about and stinging people. Those who do not produce anything else usually produce trouble.

Let's not be church whiners, Robert, or those who sting with gossip and division. Let's be producers?producers of effective and targeted prayers for the good of humanity and the glory of God.

#### Let's Think About It

Describe a time when you felt God was directing you to pray about something specific.

How did you respond to His promptings?

We learned the past several weeks about the importance of perseverance in prayer.

Describe a time when you prayed for something for a long time.

What happened?

Can you think of a time when you prayed consistently for something, but the answer never came?

Why do you think your prayer was not answered, Robert?

We have learned about three kinds of people who do not pray. Describe why these types of people might not see their need for a prayer life.

1. A strong person
2. A satisfied person
3. A slothful person

Jesus said that He did nothing except what He saw the Father doing. How does this apply to your prayer life?

#### Your Time With God

In these lessons we learned some of the characteristics of prayer.

Our method of praying should always be genuine, current and persistent. Remember what George Müller said. When he was persuaded that something was the will of God, he would never give up praying for it until the answer came.

Robert, your loving heavenly Father is ready to hear and answer your prayers. Take time today to share your deepest burdens with the Lord. Pour out your heart freely as you express your desire for a closer and more intimate walk with Him. Ask God to teach you how to pray.

Why don't you read aloud this prayer to the Lord?

"Lord Jesus, I am so happy to know You as my Lord and Savior. I long to know You better. Forgive me if I've felt

intimidated in Your presence.

I want to be like the men and women of old who believed You for great things and saw them happen. I desire to pray current, genuine and persistent prayers. I want to live a clean life so You can use me.

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and empower me to pray the kinds of prayers that matter to the kingdom of God.

Give me strength to resist believing that You don't care about my needs or burdens, because I know You do care. You love me unconditionally, and I happily receive Your love, grace and encouragement to keep on keeping on.

I surrender to Your will for my life today, Lord.

In Jesus' name, amen."