

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 23

2023

Why Do Christians Pray?

Have you ever been found praying, and then been asked why are you praying? I recently have, and in response to that question, let me suggest a few reasons for why Christians pray.

Christians Pray To Give Thanks To God.

My friend, God is the creator and sustainer of all (Acts 17:25). Therefore, Christians pray to express their thanks to God for all that He provides. The apostle Paul instructs, “*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...*” (Colossians 4:2). You see, to be simply put, without God we would not only have nothing, but we would likewise not even exist. So, always remember that a Christian prays to God, our Father in heaven, to thank Him for all that He gives and does for us.

Christians Pray To Make Request To God.

Christians also pray in order to make request to God. In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul penned, “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” You see, there are times in life when we may become overwhelmed by various trials or temptations. However, as Christians, we can seek the peace of God during these difficult times when we pray to Him and make our request known to Him, which is another reason for why Christians pray.

Christians Pray For Wisdom.

Did you know that Christians also pray for wisdom? You see, James declared, “*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him*” (James 1:5). Know that all good and perfect gifts come from above (James 1:17) and James said, if any Christian seeks wisdom to ask of it from God without doubting, and it will be given to him. Therefore, when a Christian is seeking wisdom, they pray.

Christians Pray For The Sick.

Another reason why Christians pray is that they pray for the sick. You see, physical health ailments are common among us all, but only God has the power to restore one back to a portion of good health, if He wills (1 John 5:14-15). Therefore, understand that there is power in prayer, and James inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote, “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*” (James 5:16). Christians pray for one another because, as we have learned, there is power in prayer.

Christians Pray To Ask God For Forgiveness of Their Sins.

Last, but certainly not least, Christians pray to ask for forgiveness of their sins. After Simon the sorcerer obeyed the gospel, he sinned by thinking that spiritual gifts could be bought with money. However, Peter responded to Simon, “*Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you* (Acts 8:22). You see, when we as Christians sin and fall short of the glory of God, we pray to God and ask Him for forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Why? Because sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). Therefore, it is very important that we as Christians pray to God when we do sin and ask Him for His forgiveness, in order to once again have fellowship with Him (1 John 1:5-7).

My friends, these are just a few reasons for why Christians pray. I hope that you will be ever mindful of these reasons, and that we will all be encouraged to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

✍️ Brad Phillips

Taking Things for Granted

We often feed the birds in our backyard during the winter. It's quite interesting to watch the different birds come to the feeder throughout the day. Birds are like people, in a way. Some are short and plump, others are long and lean. Some species come in groups ('birds of a feather...'), but others have more solitary ways. And they have a tendency to fight one another - just like people do.

As any bird watcher knows, the big thrill is to see a new kind of bird. Oh yes, the finches are nice, and the chickadees are so cute. We like the tufted titmouse, and we've seen pine siskins. But we're prone to take all of these for granted. "Oh, it's just another blue jay", we'll say. BUT WAIT! Just another blue jay?! Take a look at that beautiful creature. Few birds in all of God's creation can match the beauty of the blue jay. We've seen exotic birds in the pet store - the kind that people pay the big bucks for - that can not hold a candle to him. Yet we take him for granted because he's always near. We see him every day. "It's just another blue jay."

We were thinking that we tend to take things for granted in the church, too - things that are always near - things that we see all the time. "That's just brother X, he's here at all the assemblies." "That's one of our faithful members reaching out to a fellow member who needs extra help and encouragement - he always does that." "Oh, that's sister so-and-so carrying food to a family that's been sick, but she does that sort of thing all the time." BUT WAIT! These are wonderful things, and we ought never to take them for granted. Thank God for our blessings in the body of Christ.

✍ Greg Gwin

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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