

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

© ASK, June 2019 • Telephone: 503 292 4352

Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: askoffice@askelm.com

Dear Associates and Friends,

June 2019

At the beginning of this month's article I wrote, "**Prayer is direct communication. It is your personal communication with God your Father.**" God's word — the Bible, the Holy Scriptures — are God's direct communication back to your mind from God our Father. This two-way communication is not as supernatural as you may think.

As I have written before, if you read a novel (or any book for that matter) you are reading the author's thoughts, sometimes from hundreds of years ago. *Pride and Prejudice* contains Jane Austin's thoughts from 1813, over 200 years ago. If you read *War and Peace*, you are reading Leo Tolstoy's thoughts from 1869, translated to English first in 1899. We do not think in such terms when we read the Bible.

We should access God's communication to us in Scripture by reading silently or have the Holy Scriptures read aloud to us in English, translated from the Hebrew of the Old Testament or the Greek of the New Testament. I recommend reading Scripture aloud in your personal Bible study, or with a group. It sharpens your reading skills while you engage three of your senses: sight, voice and hearing. It is hard to lose your train of thought when you read aloud to yourself.

Prayer, the Essentials

This month's article is a substantial rewrite of "[The Essentials of Prayer](#)" originally from a 1995 audiotape by Dr. Ernest Martin. I reformatted the article to a more readable PDF format.

There are two interesting websites about prayer in the Bible. One summarizes Herbert Lockyer's book [All the Prayers of the Bible](#) with actual prayers referred to and listed according to books of the Bible. The internet webpage "[222 Prayers of the Bible](#)" is from the *Dake Annotated Reference Bible, King James Version* (Dake Publishing, no date). Brief explanations are given of each prayer presented in the Bible.

Prayer can be a powerful weapon when used in times of trouble, when rescue by God is sought for when confronted by a spiritual attack. I note this in my June 2005 Commentary "[Our Greatest Weapon](#)." In Ephesians chapter 6 the apostle Paul admonishes the *ekklesia* to put on the armor of God to resist assaults of the enemies and their attacks (Ephesians 6:10–12). Then Paul says to prepare for the assault (verses 6:13–14), put on your armor, and take up the sword of the Word of God for combat (verses 6:15–17).

Finally, Paul encourages a willingness to maintain communications with "headquarters" and other warriors to request help or give aid, along with a readiness to help others in the fight of faith against human oppressors or supernatural attacks, as he says in Ephesians:

"Praying always [on every occasion — continually]

with all prayer and
[with all] **supplication in Spirit,**

and watching thereunto with all perseverance and
[with all] **supplication for all saints."**

• **Ephesians 6:18**

The military example for "**watching**" with vigilance must be continuous ("**with all perseverance**") to protect one's companions and territory you are responsible for (your home, your area, your city, your "kingdom") as necessary. Lines of communication must be kept open to warn your superiors of threats, to give them an

assessment of the situation, and to respond to orders.

When casualties occur, praying for loved ones or friends who are injured or sick becomes necessary. We automatically request help from those who can give help beyond our resources, such as God. As Dr. Martin points out in “Essentials of Prayer” we go with boldness directly to God our Father and His Son Christ Jesus.

Praying for Aid and Rescue

When casualties occur, we should pray for mercy and not for grace. Why? Because you already have grace unlimited that will provide you with salvation after you or your loved ones have all died. God numbers our days as King David wrote in his mournful lament in Psalm 39¹:

“YHWH, make me to know mine end, and the measure [number] of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, you have made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before you: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

• *Psalm 39:4–5*

Remember, death is not a problem for God who will resurrect and bring to life every human being who ever lived and died. All mankind will be saved (1 Timothy 2:4 and 4:10) at **“the consummation of the eons”** (1 Corinthians 10:11, Concordant Literal Version) **“that God may be All in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:28).

For immediate “here and now” situations, we should automatically pray without prompting for God’s mercy for our or some other person’s recovery, reduction of pain, or peace when in distress. We should always keep in mind that God **“works all things after the counsel of his own will”** (Ephesians 1:11). Sometimes God wills for a person to die. Death is necessary and part of God’s plan. Sometimes God heals to demonstrate His power and His mercy to believers and to unbelievers alike, even though miracles have limited effectiveness.²

Read two related articles on God and health, [“Healing and Christian Atonement”](#) and [“Healing and New Testament Teaching.”](#) These articles also discuss the role of prayer in matters of health and what our expectations should be for healing from God and Christ. Accept that God’s will be done. God understands, see Dr. Martin’s article, [“Was Jesus Ever Sick?”](#)³

With these resources you will better understand how to approach God with prayers and petitions for healing, knowing that Jesus suffered the everyday experiences of life that we live, heightened by the fact He often took on the sicknesses of others when He healed people.

Thank You

I hope the information above and especially in this month’s article is practical for you in your life and in relationship with God our Father and Christ Jesus our elder brother. All mankind has a wondrous future ahead when God finally completes His creation plan for us to become fully adult members of His children. No aches, pains, fears, or death. We will be immortal and glorified as Christ is now (1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 3:1–3).

ASK tries to produce biblical information that is uplifting and practical. We thank you for your financial help and assistance to continue publishing as we grow in grace and in knowledge together. Thank you for your prayerful support as well as your material assistance. May God bless you all.

David W. Sielaff
david@askelm.com

¹ David had other health challenges told of in my article, [“The Tomb of David and Psalm 30.”](#) YHWH pronounced a death sentence upon King David. YHWH later told King Hezekiah the same thing (2 Kings 20:1–11, 2 Chronicles 32:24–26, and Isaiah chapter 38). Both David and Hezekiah received YHWH’s reprieve and their lives were extended.

² See [“The History and Prophecy of Miracles \(and their Failure\).”](#)

³ The better question should be, was Jesus ever well? He experienced our frailties and weaknesses when He was flesh and blood as we are now. This information is in Chapter 23 of Dr. Martin’s book, [“Chapter 23: The Real Jesus of the Bible.”](#) It will give you background about the suffering of Jesus before His crucifixion and help you understand how fully “human” He was when He emptied himself and became flesh.