

Prayer, Part 2

Body Position

Prayer is the greatest work of the Christian. The purpose is to find out God's will for our lives. Remember, there are two people involved in prayer: you and the Lord. Prayer is the breath of the soul.

One of the things people seem to be so concerned about in prayer is their proper body position during prayer. Standing, kneeling, bowing your head down, striking the chest; the position is not important in initial prayer. But there are many times in life when there is something serious on your mind and you really want to convey to God that you are serious, close your door and get down on your face, on the floor. Think of it as a "foxhole prayer".

James 1:5-8

- 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and upbraids (*disciplines, corrects your behavior*) not; and it shall be given him. *Ask God if you have something on your mind that you really can't figure out. God will give you the wisdom to think it through if you ask in prayer. When you ask for something from God with the right heart, God will give it to you. He won't be mad, even if it's something that you don't really need. He is our Father and He loves you, so He may say no, but He won't be mad.*
- 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubts is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. *You are to ask in solid faith, not doubt.*
- 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord;
- 8 a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. *If you ask of something from the Lord, and then say, 'well, He probably won't do it', don't even ask. Don't even bother. Be in solid faith and believe He will do it.*

James 5:14-15

- 14 Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: *there is nothing wrong in calling the elders of your church to pray over you. This is some serious praying. 'Anoint' here means to actually 'rub the person with oil in the name of the Lord'. It was used as a medical treatment in the old scripture days. You are asking for a concentrated attention from the Lord to the individual that you are anointing. It's not used a lot today because some churches have abused this anointing in the past. Using the oil method makes it a concentrated prayer to the individual. When you do it, you call on spiritually mature people to pray over you when you are sick or have a desperate need. It is not to be used for minor prayers like wanting a new car. It's to be used for fatal illnesses and such.*
- 15 and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him. *There are illnesses that are related to sin. God will forgive those who have committed sin and asked for forgiveness, then the sickness related to that sin will be healed. Can you pray for another person's salvation? Of course! God will answer our prayers in His own good time. Don't ever give up, don't ever doubt the Lord. Always pray in good faith that God will take good care of you.*