



Christian Questions

Think about the Bible like you never have before

Dear Jerry,

You told us that you have had a relationship with God through prayer for many years. However, in the last three years you have been unable to pray. Although you want the Lord back in your life, you were having doubts as to whether you were “saved.” You asked for our help.

Please do not doubt. We have been redeemed through the sacrifice of God’s dear Son. Even the vilest offender has been redeemed and will have an opportunity for salvation on earth in the future. God has promised the opportunity for salvation to the entire human race. Some will receive a heavenly reward if they were true followers of Jesus. Others will receive a chance for salvation and everlasting life on earth in the future. God is true to his word. He cannot lie. So, there is no reason for you to have doubts. When you doubt you begin to lose faith in God and his love for you.

The above having been said, how do you begin to regain your relationship with God? You pray to Him. The Apostle Paul tells us to go “boldly to the throne of grace,” to obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Through prayer you may ask God to forgive you and grant you the wisdom and spiritual strength and peace you need to move forward on your Christian walk. Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has afforded us. In fact, prayer is not only a privilege but a necessity, commanded as indispensable to the Christian’s growth.

God’s answers to our prayers are directly dependent upon our heart attitude and our complete faith in His decisions in our lives. “You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss” (James 4:3). Prayers offered in harmony with the scriptural condition that we are abiding in Christ (John 15:4) are always answered, even if the answer is “no” or is long delayed. The Christian should strive to learn what God’s will is for him, rather than tell God what his preferences are. Such prayers are “asking amiss.” He should pray for development of character so that he will grow in Christ-likeness and not seek his own will, but seek the will of God.

Every trial of faith and patience is an occasion for prayer. Every failure is an occasion for prayer for forgiveness as well as for blessing that the lesson may be deeply impressed upon us so that in the next similar experience we may lay hold upon the “grace to help” (Hebrews 4:16) promised. Every victory we have over our self-wills is an occasion for prayer that we stay humble and watchful for the

next attack by Satan. We should also pray for opportunities to serve the Lord and for grace to use these opportunities wisely.

The Apostle Paul tells us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is the Christian’s lifeline to God. The Apostle tells in Romans 12:12 to “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful [instant] in prayer.” What a blessed privilege to be able to lift up our hearts and minds to God at any time and in any place! Believers who come to Him never weary God. Jesus illustrated this point when he told his disciples the parable of a persistent widow, who was answered because she refused to give up. Likewise, we should pray and not give up (Luke 18:1-8).

How do you reestablish the relationship with God that you once had? First, you need to stop doubting that you have been saved. Doubting is a tool of Satan. You and all of humanity will have a second chance for life everlasting either in heaven or on earth in the future because of Jesus’ incredible sacrifice. He paid the price once for all. What do you do with this incredible gift of life? You pray continually. Ask the Lord for forgiveness and mercy, for a greater measure of faith, for strength against the wiles of Satan and the allurements of the world, for guidance in life’s affairs, and for thankfulness in all matters, even hard experiences, since these experiences are allowed by God for the Christian’s spiritual development. If you pray with thankfulness and humility, your faith will be renewed as you regain your much-needed relationship with God.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your [spiritual] requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

We would like to suggest listening to a podcast we did on December 18, 2017 entitled, “Will Prayer Change Your Life?” Also, “Do My Doubts Mean I Don’t Have Faith?” on May 7, 2018. You can find these and many other podcasts in the “Archives” on our website. We pray it will be helpful.

We hope we have encouraged you to pray. Be sure to sign up for our weekly newsletter to receive CQ Rewind at ChristianQuestions.com. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

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