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**Why Should I Pray?**

**By Stanley T. Crawford**

**Why Should I Pray? by Stanley T. Crawford**

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**Why Should I Pray?**

**By Stanley T. Crawford**

We should pray to God for at least two important reasons. First of all, God has instructed us to pray. Second for a purely selfish reason, prayer causes things to happen. Another way of looking at this is "prayer gets results, or cause and effect."

Several of the scriptures from the bible exhort us to pray to God (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, James 1:5 - 8, James 5: 13 - 18, and Philippians 4:6 & 7). This is just a sampling of the verses that encourage us to pray. Prayer provides a way for us to communicate with God. We can pray to God by using the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:8-13) or we can merely speak to God. God is constantly aware of what we do and what we say. He is omnipotent. Yet, we must exercise our faith by acknowledging God.

Praying is a way that we communicate with and acknowledge God. Of course, we need to be sincere in our prayers to God. God, unlike man can not be fooled. This is because God knows all, sees all, and understands all. God weighs the hearts of men and women. He knows purity and hypocrisy and degrees in between. A prime example of God's ability to determine sincerity occurred when Jesus watched

## Why Should I Pray?

the people give money to the treasury. Many people gave money based on their abundance, however one poor widow gave all that she had (Mark 12:41–44). This is a judgment of the heart. Only God is able to make a pure judgment about another person's heart.

Prayer can have a cause and effect impact on our lives. For instance, when Paul was in prison the people of the church constantly prayed and God sent an angel to free Paul from prison (Acts 12: 5–11). In addition, Jesus prayed to God on Peter's behalf (Luke 22:31 & 32), he prayed for Peter's faith, that it shouldn't fail. Also, Jesus prayed for himself and his disciples (Matthew 26:36–46)

In conclusion, we can see that since God answers prayer then nothing is impossible. In addition, we can pray to God about any issue that concerns us. We can give thanks, we can make requests. A great thing about our prayers is that we don't have to tell anyone about what we pray. Pray for yourself, your parents, your brother, your sister, your boss, your present, your future, your country, and your "?". Pray, pray, and pray!!!

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## **A New School Year**

**By Kimberly Chastain**

Depending on where you live school will be starting this month or next month. A new school year is usually exciting and scary at the same time. Most children won't admit it, but they are ready to get back to school and see their friends. As much as I love not having a rigid schedule in the summer, I do miss the structure of the school year. We get up later in the summer and go to bed later as well.

When you think of a new School Year what are your first thoughts? Back to school shopping for clothes and school supplies. A big transition from elementary to middle school, or to high school, even college. A new teacher who you heard is strict or not strict enough? There can often be lots of anxiety with a new school year for parents as well as children.

Can I offer a few suggestions for your back to school list? Remember whose children they are. Yes they are our children, but they are God's children. He cares about them and loves them more than we ever could. Pray for your children. Pray for their academics, choice of friends, study habits, and

## Why Should I Pray?

wisdom to make Godly choices. Pray for their teachers. If their teachers are not Christians, pray that God can use you to be an example to their teachers. Pray for the administrators in your child's school. Pray for the safety of your child and all the children at their school. Pray that your children will see a Godly example in you, with how you handle school difficulties or problems with your children. Begin praying with other mothers for their children as well. We don't have to carry the burden alone. Above all remember God is in control. I often have a difficult time remembering that principle.

In closing, God is a mighty God and he cares about our concerns. I often pray on the way to taking my children to school. I pray when my children are having difficulties with friends. God cares about everything in our lives and He truly cares about our children. My mother is a prayer warrior for my children and myself. May we all become prayer warriors for our children. Take your problems to Him and leave them there.

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Kimberly M. Chastain, MS, LMFT is the Christian Working Mom Coach and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who specializes in helping Christian women make the most of their lives. She is the author of the on-line course, "I Can't Say No" and Pearls of Encouragement for Christian Working Moms, a free e-book. If you suffer from "I Can't Say `No" Syndrome, visit Kimberly's site today for the details on an exciting email course that's sure to set you free!

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All Christian Writings

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