

Jesus and His Father

Because prayer is the key to a happier, more satisfying life, I'm particularly interested in what Jesus teaches us about prayer, both through His words and through His example.

I read about His life in the Gospels - the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Bible. The more I learn about Him, the more I sense that He had a special relationship with God, His Father. I see it in His life. I hear it in His words.

- He seemed always conscious of His Father, always living in His presence. His Father seemed always right there with Him.
- He always had an open line to His Father. Their conversation wasn't isolated only to special times of prayer. Prayer didn't seem to start and stop. Their conversation was open and continuous.
- We think of Jesus as being a "super man," knowing absolutely everything around Him and being full of unlimited power popping from His fingertips. But as we listen to His words, we learn the opposite:

"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing." (John 5:19, NIV)

"The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work." (John 14:10, NIV)

Jesus was strong, not because of His own power, but because He made himself totally, constantly dependent on His Father. He had emptied himself of all His own power and ability (see Philippians 2:5-11). By being empty before God, Jesus could be completely full of His Father. By being weak in Himself, He was always strong in God alone. He was constantly sufficient for every situation, not because He was strong in himself, but because He had made himself weak and completely dependent on His Father.

- Because of this relationship, Jesus seemed always relaxed and always focused.
- He was busy but never rushed. What a wonderful quality! Though under pressure, He never seemed tense. How I want that in my own life!

In all these things I'm not talking about some vague, abstract quality or a mystical state of mind. Read about Jesus' life. I want His peace, His strength, His joy, His love. Doesn't everyone? I want His open and constant relationship with the Father, for that is the key to His life.

So when Jesus talks about prayer, I want to listen. I want to take Him seriously. I want to learn and follow Him.

Hymn: [Teach Us to Pray](#)

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