

Conversation with Our Creator

Nothing has changed my life like realizing this one thing: God is a real Being, and He is constantly, personally with us.

And nothing has changed for me more than prayer. It used to be so difficult and frustrating. I felt like I was struggling to contact a Someone way out there somewhere. I tried to concentrate and get into the right frame of mind, but the harder I tried, the more my thoughts wandered.

As I've realized that God is a real "person" who's always with me, prayer has become more natural and personal. It's not a routine or a dry obligation. I don't have to get into the right frame of mind. I simply talk to God as to a Good Friend right next to me. Prayer is personal conversation with my Creator.

And since I'm never out of His presence, I can talk to Him anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

Does that sound strange, sentimental, or unrealistic? Is it strange that the One who gave me life should care enough to talk to me? Is it sentimental for a Father to want to talk to His own children? Is it unrealistic to believe that the One who created time and space would know how to communicate with me? Is that far-fetched or illogical?

Prayer is not a formality isolated to one brief period of the day. When my Father helps me or gives me something good, I can thank Him on the spot. When a concern arises, I can talk to Him about it immediately. Every happiness, every worry, every need is a reminder to pray. And when I do wrong, I can ask forgiveness then and there, knowing that He loves me and forgives me completely. If we repent immediately and from our hearts, not even our sins need separate us from Him.

As with any relationship, the more freely and constantly I communicate with God, the closer our friendship grows. As we experience that He is anxious to listen, anxious to guide, and anxious to forgive, prayer becomes more natural and free. It becomes a "want to," not a "have to."

Try turning to Him as you drive to work or as you sit in traffic. Daily commutes are a great chance to pray. Talk to Him as you wait in line or as you walk. In those tense situations when you need just the right word to say, ask Him for help. Speak to Him as to your loving Father. Speak to Him as to your closest Friend.

You won't have to get in the mood or conjure Him up. He is there, waiting to talk with you.

Hymn: **God Answers Prayer**