

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

17 – Faithful in prayer (1)
 > Prayer <

**Our theme verse:
 Romans 12:12**

Be joyful in hope,
 patient in affliction,
 faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12 (NIV)

This is not the **ONLY** time
 Paul wrote about these three concepts.

Consider the parallels between
 our theme verse and
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful in hope,
 patient in affliction,
 faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Be joyful always;
 pray continually;
 give thanks in all
 circumstances,*
 for this is God's will for
 you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thes. 5:16-18 (NIV)

* In 1 Thessalonians, "all circumstances"
 implies "even the bad ones."

We are now going to look at
 the *third* part of Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient
 in affliction, faithful in
 prayer.
Romans 12:12 (NIV)

The power to be joyful and hopeful
 comes from being
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.

Ultimately, the power comes from GOD, ...

★ But GOD connects
his giving of power to our praying! ★

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

Power!!

Power!!

JOYFUL IN HOPE

PATIENT IN AFFLICTION

**PRAYER does not
 mean a constant
 repetition of
 memorized phrases!**

Quoting Scripture in prayer is quite good, as
 long as it doesn't become mindless repetition. →



Even if it's OK for parrots...
it's **NOT OK** for you!

WHY? 2 REASONS!

Reason #1 **IT'S A PART OF FAKE RELIGION**

When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again.

Matthew 6:7 (NLT)

Reason #2

YOU ARE NOT A PARROT.

NO OTHER REASONS ARE NEEDED.

I'M NOT IMPRESSED!

WHEN A CHURCH IS FULL OF "PRAYER PARROTS"

HELLO, JESUS!

COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

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**REQUIRES NO SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY!**

**PRAYER IS OUR COMMUNICATION**

The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to communicate with us.

↓ ↑

We use prayer to communicate with God.

Prayer is **NOT** a time for informing God about something he doesn't already know!!!

Your heavenly Father *already knows* all your needs, ...  
Matthew 6:32b (NLT)

GOD, I'VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE FOR YOU!

NO, YOU DON'T!

PRAYER IS THE TIME  
YOU EXPRESS YOUR  
**VALUES**

PRAYER IS OUR EXPRESSION OF VALUES ...

The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to teach and guide us.

We use prayer to express the values we learned.\*

\* (Or else to prove we didn't learn them.)

IF OUR VALUES DON'T CHANGE:

- ✓ We haven't learned anything.
- ✓ We haven't paid attention to God!

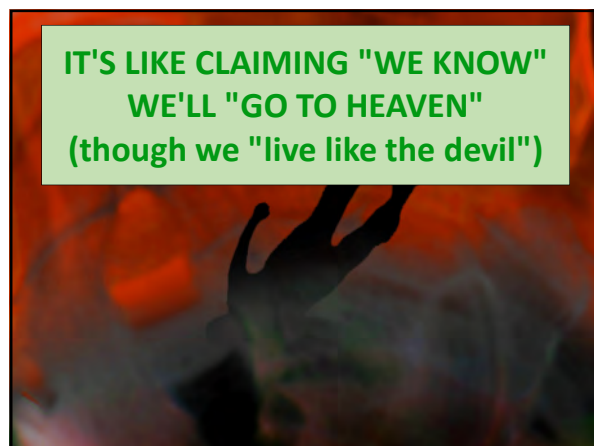
Do not merely *listen* to the word, and so deceive yourselves.  
Do what it says.  
James 1:22 (NIV)

IF WE CLAIM WE KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS,  
BUT OUR VALUES HAVEN'T CHANGED,

IT'S LIKE

IT'S LIKE ...

CLAIMING "WE KNOW"  
IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP



## Your Mission... (1)

**CONSIDER THE ISSUE...**

**We already know that prayer is important ...**

Be ... faithful in prayer.  
*Romans 12:12 (NIV)*

... pray continually; ...  
*1 Thes. 5:17 (NIV)*

**But what attitude and values do we express in our prayer?**

**THIS?**

HEY GOD!  
HERE'S TODAY'S LIST

I CAN'T WAIT TILL YOU GRANT ME ALL THESE DEMANDS - I MEAN "REQUESTS"!

GIMME THIS!  
GIMME THAT!  
GIMME GIMME GIMME!

**OR THIS?**

DEAR FATHER,  
I LOVE YOU! YOU ARE WORTHY OF PRAISE AND ADORATION ...

I CONFESS MY SINS ...

YOU KNOW OUR NEEDS ...

**IN ALL THESE THINGS, DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS BEST. YOUR WILL, NOT MINE, BE DONE!**

Most likely,

**WE'RE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THESE TWO.**

**YOU & ME**

**★ WHICH MEANS THERE'S ROOM TO GROW. ★**

We may SAY we have godly values ...

— but —

... how we PRAY shows what is really true.

MY VALUES ARE **WONDERFUL!**

YOU & ME

I WANT TO HONOR YOU IN ALL THINGS!

## Your Mission... (2)

**RESPOND TO THE ISSUE...**

Your VALUES ARE PROVED by how you PRAY, not by what you SAY.

- What are those values?  
Do they agree with Scripture?  
How can you know for certain? \*

\* (HINT: You can't know without the Bible.)

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# Your Mission...

"Be ... faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12c

PRAYER - talking to God

FAITHFUL - to be persistent, to keep on doing it

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**THE WAY WE PRAY REFLECTS  
OUR VALUES!**

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## Jesus shows us how to pray! (Matthew 6:9-13)

He gives us a *pattern* to follow (v. 9a).

- Jesus does not tell us to simply repeat this prayer, like a trained parrot. Rather, he wants us to take this prayer to heart and let it change the way we pray.

**The #1 focus: God and his kingdom (v. 9b-10).**

- Godly prayer is characterized by a desire that God have a *central* (special, "hallowed") place in all things. We joyfully acknowledge who he is; and we desire others to do the same!
- In God-honoring prayer, we acknowledge that *God's* will is more important than our own. We want God to be honored in all that we do - as well as in all that others do. We want him to rule over our lives... and over all the earth!

(CONTINUED) →

**The #2 focus: The needs of God's people (v. 11-13).**

- The emphasis is not on "me," but on "us." An awareness of this fact will greatly influence how we pray in these matters!
- *We admit we are needy:* We entrust all our needs to God, knowing that he understands them better than we do. We know his ways are perfect, even when he doesn't answer the way we desire. (Matthew 6:25-34 focuses more on this issue.)
- *We admit we are debtors:* Our sins have made us debtors to *God*. Since God has offered us forgiveness, we are willing to forgive others who have sinned against us. (As God's children, we want to treat others the way he has treated us.)
- *We admit that we cannot make it through trials on our own:* We need God's help. We want to avoid trials; but when they come (and they will), we pray for God to bring us through them unharmed.

## Having the right priorities!

**Getting things right.**

- Many people emphasize their immediate *physical* needs, when they pray. Yet this is *not* the primary emphasis in Scripture. The glory of God and the *spiritual* well-being of people is *always* considered more important!

**Here are more examples to learn from:**

- *Jesus' prayer:* in John 17.
- *Paul's prayers:* in Ephesians 1:15-19; 3:16-21; 6:18-20; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12; 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 and elsewhere.
- *John's prayer:* in 3 John 1:2. He prays for their health and circumstances. But his statement, "even as your soul is getting along well" shows that their spiritual condition was the more important issue.