

Luke 6:12

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Are we spending time in prayer talking “**with**” God, or “**at**” God?

We read in the bible that Jesus would often spend all night talking with God in prayer. When you read that in the bible, have you ever thought about what God and Jesus talked about? Maybe not, because we spend five, maybe ten minutes in prayer, because a lot of times our prayer life consists of our own needs, and when we run out of things to pray for ourselves, we think it's time to say “Amen” and walk away.

Yet Jesus had no needs, because He fully trusted in God to take care of His needs. Therefore He was not spending all night praying for His own needs, which tells us that He prayed for the needs of others.

Yet that is one aspect of Jesus' prayer life. Another was that Jesus also prayed for God to be glorified in the things He did each day, and we can see that in His prayer in John chapter 17.

✠ **John 17:1** *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,”*

We also read of Jesus talking to God in prayer about choices that He needed to make. Think of the time He spent all night in prayer seeking the Father's direction on who the twelve Apostles would be.

✠ **Luke 6:12-13** *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:*

With that in mind, think of my opening statement:

“Are we spending time in prayer talking ‘**with**’ God, or ‘**at**’ God?”

Do you think Jesus talked “**with**” God. or “**at**” God all night, and did Jesus do all the talking? When the twelve were chosen, did Jesus say everything, then walked away with who He wanted the twelve to be? Or did God and Jesus talk together about it, so they were in mutual agreement of who the twelve would be?

Yet, some say that they can't hear God speaking to them when they pray. Maybe the reason we can't hear God speak when we pray, is we don't give Him a chance to speak, as we say amen before He can give us an answer or direction.

Or it could be that we spend so much time asking for ourselves, yet God would rather hear us ask on behalf of others and pray for others, so He can speak to us in regard to the needs of others. If you think about it, when we spend so much time praying for ourselves, in a sense, we are trying to bring glory to ourselves and not to God. And we may use the excuse of, *"I want to bring glory to God by telling others ALL the things He has done for ME."* But isn't God more glorified when we tell of ALL the thing He has done, not just for us, (because it's not about us) but all the wonderful things He has done for OTHERS!

Jesus glorified God through the thing He did for others, not for the things God did for Jesus. Sure, God used Jesus, yet Jesus was totally happy and fine with God getting all the glory the things that He (Jesus) did for others.

We say that it is better to give than receive. I don't know about you, but I am more blessed to see God answering my prayers for others, then my own prayers for myself, because God is getting all the glory, and others are being blessed by God for how He has worked in their lives.

So, lets examine our prayer life and ask ourselves if we are spending time in prayer talking **"with"** God, or **"at"** God?"

- † **1 Corinthians 14:13 (MSG)** *So, when you pray in your private prayer language, don't hoard the experience for yourself. Pray for the insight and ability to bring others into that intimacy.*
- † **Psalm 14:2** *The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.*
- † **Psalm 40:16** *Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!"*
- † **Psalm 105:3** *Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!*
- † **2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NLT2)** *Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.*