

## Matthew 6:6 (KJV)

***But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.***

Are we texting God with our prayers, but not spending time with Him with our lives?

*“Do you want chicken or beef for dinner tonight?”*

*“Can you stop and get some milk and tomatoes on your way home?”*

*“I love you.”*

*“I don’t think we should see each other anymore.”*

Texting, we all do it, and it has become the way almost everyone chooses to communicate with others. For me, I am not a phone person, and I would rather send a quick text messages then have to talk to someone on the phone for a few minutes... and there are those that you know when they call, you have to make sure you have an hour to spend with him or her before you answer the phone. (Yes I can see you all shaking your heads, “Yes” lol)

But have we turned our prayers into quick text messages to God, now that we have learned that form of communication? And don’t we sometimes get upset when someone starts to pray, and they spend more than a minute on their prayer?

So we text God with things like.

*“God, I pray for my family.”* With no further insight into what we are praying for them for.

*“God, I pray for a new job.”* Instead of asking if He even wants us to have a new job.

*“God I pray for my coworkers salvation.”* Yet never asking who He may want us to go talk to.

*“God, change my husband or wife.”* Instead of asking God to show us what we need to be changed to be a better spouse.

Just as we have lost the art of communication, so have we lost the same art (so to speak) of prayer. We read of men of God who used to spend hours in prayer, now we see men of God who can’t spend five minutes in prayer. And why? Well, the men of God who would spend hours in prayer used to, because there were so many people and needs of others to pray for.

But for us, when we run out of things to pray for ourselves, we run out of things to pray for. Yet the key word is “things” because we should not be spending time in prayer, praying for things, but rather we should be spending time in prayer, praying for others and their needs.

Now there is nothing wrong with those quick prayers throughout the day, as we read of examples of men of God praying those in the bible, including Jesus. But with Jesus as our example, we need to remember that, yes, there were times when He said a quick prayer, but He would also spend long nights in prayer as well, and I am sure it wasn’t all about Him and His needs, but He was seeking God’s direction on how others have needs and how to meet those needs for them.

And Jesus was not just spending time in prayer, but also walking with God throughout the day, because that was Jesus' relationship with the Father, prayer as well as including God in His everyday things He was doing.

So, as we are encouraged to put our phones down and have real communication with others, let's also purpose in our hearts to get back into the precious art of praying for the needs of others, and not just a quick, "God help him or her" test prayer. But interceding for others as we communicate with our Father in heaven.

† **Galatians 6:7-10** *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

† **Hebrews 13:15-16 (KJV)** *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*