

The Power Of Prayer

The young couple sat close to each other on the bench, their sad eyes fixed on the double swing doors in front of them. Just over an hour before their only child had been rushed by the ambulance men through those doors into the operating theatre. Nurses had brought them a cup of tea and tried to comfort them with little success. After what seemed a life-time to them a doctor came through the swing doors and thoughtfully walking slowly towards them. The expression on his face did not raise their hopes and his words plunged them into despair. *“We have done all we can to save your child, only a miracle from God can do it now.”*

“God”!! All the young couple knew about God was He was someone who was supposed to live in a big building that had stain glass windows and when they used this building for their marriage it felt strange and cold. *“Miracles”!!* Wasn't there some place in France where miracles were supposed to happen and didn't you have to do something called prayer for this God person to perform the miracle of healing. God was a complete stranger to them.

You may feel the above example is extreme, **yet to most people in present day society, God is the being you turn to when all else has failed.**

The last resort.

They are then praying to a person who is a complete stranger to them, whose thoughts and way of life they do not know.

In contrast to the above.

James 2:23 [NIV] *“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.”*

Abraham was called the Friend of God.

When we call someone our friend, what do we understand about the relationship we have with this person?

- a) A friend is someone whom we have got to know well over a period of time.
- b) A friend is someone whose company we delight to share as often as possible.
- c) A friend is one with whom we willingly share our joys and sorrows.
- d) A friend is one whom we are always ready to spend time listening to.
- e) A friend is one who will patiently listen to us as we try to express in words what we are feeling deep inside.
- f) A friend is one we can rely on and trust at all times.
- g) A friend is one whom we would never want to let down or neglect.
- h) A friend is one whom we are grateful to know and to count as our friend.

What is the one thing that converts a stranger into someone who fills the qualifications of a friend as listed above?

Just one word covers it all.

Conversation!!

The only effective way to get to know a person and for them to become your friend is to converse with them.

To build up this relationship will take time, it is not something we can do overnight.

“Well,” you may say, “what you suggest may work with someone I can see and hear, but when it comes to God I cannot do either, can I!”

Not true!

Conversation with God is covered by two other words that are very familiar to us, they are “*prayer*” and “*study*”.

Study is listening to what God is saying to us [God’s Word] and prayer should be considered as the other side of the conversation when we speak to God.

If we begin to look on prayer and study from this perspective, a conversation we are having with God leading to our becoming a friend of God, just like Abraham, prayer and study will become far more relaxed and immeasurably fulfilling.

But is this all that is needed to change our relationship with God from that of a stranger to a friend?

John 15:14 [NIV] *“You are my friends if you do what I command.”*

Is this then a condition to being a Friend of God, complete obedience to Jesus Christ?

It sounds a bit unfriendly, obey or else!

Not when we read this statement in context.

We should never take any statement in scripture without reading what is said before and after the statement, and also where the same subject is considered elsewhere in God’s Word.

John 15:13 [NIV] *“Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*

Isn’t this exactly what Jesus Christ the Son of God has already done for us?

Jesus Christ has already shown just how much He desires to be our Friend by this one great act of love, which He made before we even came to even know of Him.

Romans 5:6-8, 10 [NIV] *“You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**” “For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”*

“*Ungodly*”, “*sinners*”, “*enemies*” – these are **not** the words that would describe a friend of God.

Yet it was at a time when such words fitly describe our attitude that Jesus Christ extended the Hand of Friendship to you and I.

John 15:16 [NIV] *“**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**”*

Whenever I read these words they force me to stop, meditate on them, wonder and marvel at what they say then, mentally if not physically, fall on my knees and worship God out of pure gratitude.

That the very Creator God has actually stooped down and chosen me to be His Friend.

I find it hard to hold back tears of joy and thankfulness, seeking to obey Jesus Christ in such circumstances is nothing but a privilege.

John 15:15 [NIV] *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

Stop and meditate on this powerful statement.

We are being offered inside information on the plans that the Creator God and the Father are making.

John 15:11 [NIV] *“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*

The end product of this offered friendship with God is complete joy, but this is not all.

John 15:9-10 [NIV] *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”*

We will be enveloped by the Love of Jesus Christ and the Father; Paul describes such a relationship to the Church in Rome.

Romans 8:35-39 [NIV] *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Nothing can ever separate us from this loving friendship with the All Powerful Creator of the Universe.

Let us now go back to John’s gospel and read the end result of power filled friendship God wants to have with us for it states just how powerful we can use this relationship in our lives on a day-to-day basis.

John 15:16 [NIV] *“.....Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

Answered prayer.

Again let us read this in context to see the purpose behind such a sure promise of answered prayer.

John 15:16 [NIV] *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.....”*

The bearing of permanent fruit in our lives is the purpose behind such answered prayer. We must always have this in front of our minds when we talk to God in prayer.

What does God mean by lasting fruit?

If anything is going to be lasting it cannot be physical.

Physical fruit does not last long, it soon rots.

For the fruit to be lasting it has to be spiritual, something that is eternal.

Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

Here are listed eternal spiritual fruits.

These are the fruits of our friendship with God the Father through Jesus Christ and by the Power of the Holy Spirit in us.

That is a powerful statement that I have made that needs examining closely so that we can understand and implement in our lives.

Galatians 5:16-17 [NIV] *“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”*

We have here the description of a war that is raging within our minds.

It is not a physical war but a spiritual one where events happen at the speed of thought, which is even faster than the speed of light which is physical.

The only effective weapons we can use are spiritual weapons.

“Live by the Spirit” A direct reference to God’s Holy Spirit, as opposed to our human nature.

How can we do this?

Through Jesus the Christ.

Romans 6:6 [NIV] *“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”*

Before we accepted the poured out blood of Jesus the Christ the only begotten Son of God, we were enslaved in what Paul calls here “our old self” or “the body of sin”.

We all lived by the dictates of this body driven by sin.

The Greek word here translated as “sin” is “*hamartia*” from a root word meaning to miss the mark [and so not to share in the prize].

Even when we tried to live what we reckoned to be a good life we failed.

We always failed because we didn’t even know what “*the mark*” was we were to hit; we didn’t know the purpose of life.

Romans 6:3-4 [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

We were baptised as an outward symbolic sign of accepting the death of Jesus Christ in our stead.

We are also raised to a new life as Jesus the Christ was raised from the grave by the “*Glory of the Father*”.

“*Glory*” Greek word “*doxa*” used of the nature and Acts of God in self-manifestation.

John 17:5, 24 [NIV] *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” ... “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”*

John 11:4 [NIV] *“When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”*

The nature and Acts of God are shown through Christ and the Holy Spirit, so by logical deduction the “Glory of the Father” must in this case be referring to the Holy Spirit.

Our new life is also dependent on the Holy Spirit, which we receive upon repentance and baptism as a gift from God the Father at Christ’s request.

Acts 2:38 [NIV] *“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

John 14:16-17 [NIV] *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

What conclusion do we come to about effective, that is answered prayer?

The end product, the aim of our prayers, must be the producing of spiritual fruits in our lives and also in the lives of others.

James 4:1-4 [NIV] *“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”*

The main reason for ineffective unanswered prayers is our selfishness.

Human nature “the old man”, “the body of sin”, is naturally dedicated to serving and preserving self.

We have to learn to be unselfish in our prayers.

Job 42:7-10 [NIV] *“After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, ‘I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.’ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer. After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.”*

God reprimanded Job’s friends, humbled them by saying that Job would have to pray for them.

It was Job’s prayer for them that God was going to accept, not their own.

God had reprimanded Job and had already accepted Job’s repentance.

God accepted and upheld Job’s obedience, faithfulness and his desire to seek God’s Will in his life; but still not as yet healed Job.

It was not until Job had offered an intercessory prayer on behalf of his friends that God healed Job of all the sores and boils that God had allowed Satan to inflict on him.

This is a law, a wise principle that God lives by; the law of intercessory prayer.

Job’s problems and sickness made him even more introspective than he had been before.

It was not until God showed Job just how insignificant he really was when compared to his Creator God that Job got his mind off of himself and on to the needs of others.

Genesis 20:6-7, 17-18 [NIV] *“Then God said to him in the dream, ‘Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and **he will pray for you and you will live.** But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die.’ ‘Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again, for the LORD had closed up every womb in Abimelech’s household because of Abraham’s wife Sarah.”*

“He will pray for you”.

Abimelech was a God-fearing man.

Why couldn't he pray for himself?

Abraham's fears for his own life had caused him to become self-centred, even to the point of telling a lie.

God was going to be forced to teach Abraham a lesson, that effective prayers are **not** self-centred but prayers we make for others and their needs.

Some people's prayers are so self-centred that God will not answer them for their own good.

1 Samuel 12:23 [NIV] *“As for me, **far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you.** And I will teach you the way that is good and right.”*

Samuel understood it was a sin [the Hebrew word “*chata*” meaning to miss the mark, to be led astray] if he did not pray for Saul.

Saul was no friend to Samuel but caused him endless work and trouble, yet Samuel knew it would be the sin of omission if he did not pray for Saul, a selfish act on his part.

1 Kings 3:10 [NIV] *“The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.”*

God was very pleased with the prayer of Solomon's and answered it by giving Solomon far more than he asked for in his prayer.

Why?

1 Kings 3:7 [NIV] *“Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.”*

Solomon had a realistic but humble approach to God.

1 Kings 3:8 [NIV] *“Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.”*

Solomon realised that he was but a steward of what was really God's people and rulership.

1 Kings 3:9 [NIV] *“So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”*

Solomon asked for the gifts that would enable him to be a good steward for God, gifts so he could serve the people well and be a just judge for God to rule over God's people.

1 Corinthians 12:7 [NIV] *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

Gifts given for “*common good*”.

The same principle applies with gifts as for prayer; both prayer and gifts from God are for the benefit of others first and foremost.

James 5:15-16 [NIV] *“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other so that you may be healed.** The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”*

“Pray for each other”. **In the context of being healed of some sickness by God we are told to use intercessory prayers.**

Why do we **not** pray for our own healing?

Such a prayer would not be effective for it is not an intercessory prayer.

What are our thoughts while the minister is praying for us to be healed?

God please heal me; this pain and discomfort is more than I can bear!!

Rather, shouldn't we be thinking:

- a) heal me Father that I may be a great example for others to look to you for healing;
- b) may my healing be of great encouragement to the minister, help him to know that You are working through him;
- c) heal me that I may be more effective co-worker with You and Your Ministry.

Note that in the example outline prayer that Jesus Christ left us, we find “*our*” and “*us*” and **not** “*me*” or “*I*”.

Matthew 6:9-15 [NIV] *“This, then, is how you should pray: “‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today **our** daily bread. Forgive us **our** debts, as we also have forgiven **our** debtors. And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from the evil one.’ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

What else does God show is equally important in our prayer life?

Matthew 19:16 [NIV] *“Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’”*

This man desperately wanted to have eternal life, but why?

Christ exposed the real motive behind this desire.

Matthew 19:21-22 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.”*

He was a rich man and his desire was to continue his rich and comfortable life up to and beyond death.

A selfish attitude.

Matthew 19:27 [NIV] *“Peter answered him, ‘We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?’”*

The disciples had similar reasons for wanting to be in God's Kingdom [Family], for what he would get out of such a future.

Peter really thought he had sacrificed a great deal to do what he had done for God, what was going to be his reward!!

Do we feel we have given up a great deal to be in God's Church and being a part of His Work?

Jesus Christ gave us a parable to show what their motives were and what they should become to be in God's Kingdom.

Matthew 20:1-16 [NIV] *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the market-place doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no-one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and **you have made them equal to us** who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? **Or are you envious because I am generous?**' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

There are two different attitudes and motives illustrated in this parable.

The key is in verse 12 "you have made them equal to us".

The husbandman's attitude and motive

His motive was to get the work done before the end of the day and that those who were called late in the day would get a full day's pay.

Those who heard this parable fully understood and accepted these two motives as right and benevolent.

In Palestine the grape harvest ripens towards the end of September, and directly after comes the rains.

If the grape harvest is not completed before the rain breaks, it would be ruined, so to get the harvest it was a frantic race against time.

Any worker is welcome, even if he can only give an hour to the work.

John 4:34-35 *"My food, said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

The motivating power in Christ's life was to complete the work that had been given to him by the Father within the allotted time period.

He wants us to open our eyes to see what needs to be done and make it also the motivating force in our lives, what nourishes and empowers us.

Matthew 9:36-38 [NIV] *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”*

Our prayer to God should be that others would join us to bring this good news we have about what God has done for us through Jesus the Christ to this helplessly lost world.

If we have the same mind as Christ, the same compassion for the helpless, harassed and hopeless people in this world, who stumble through life blinded to the real purpose of life.

We will be praying that God will call others to join us, that we may lead them to the One who can shepherd their lives, Jesus the Christ.

Philippians 2:5 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”*

The people hearing this parable for the first time would have understood the benevolent attitude of the husbandman.

These men were hired labourers, they were the lowest class of workers, and life for them was always desperately precarious.

Slaves and servants benefited by being part of a family and had the security of full time employment and provision for their needs.

These hired labourers were very different.

They depended on chance employment and were constantly living in a semi-starvation existence.

If they were unemployed for a day the chances are that they and their family would go hungry, for few could have savings out of *“a denarius a day”*.

God knows our needs and although we are to pray for our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11 [NIV] *“Give us today our **daily** bread.”*

God knows our needs and will provide them even before we ask.

Matthew 6:32-33 [NIV] *“For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**”*

The workers’ attitude and motives

Those who were first to be chosen came to an agreement with the husbandman; they had a contract.

They worked for pay [reward] and as their conduct showed, all that they were interested in was to get as much as possible for their work.

Those who were called later did not mention any contract; all they wanted was the chance to join in the work, and willingly left any reward to the master.

There is a basic difference here.

A person is not a Christian if their first concern is the reward they will receive.

A Christian works for the joy of working and serving God and his fellow human beings.

Could this be the reason the first will be last and the last first? [Matthew 19:30]

Will those who have earned great rewards in this world, perhaps even as one employed by the church, have a low place in the Kingdom as his motive for serving [and praying] was the reward he would receive?

Others will be great in the Kingdom, because they never thought in terms of reward, but worked for the joy of serving with Jesus Christ in the work he has been commissioned to do by God the Father.

What a paradox!!

How does God know our real motives?

Through our prayer life.

We all need to pray for ourselves, our needs and problems, but a far greater part of our prayers should be for others and the work that we do with Christ.

Look at this from a logical perspective.

If each of us pray only for ourselves, just one prayer for our needs reaches [possibly] God's ears.

But if we are all praying one for another, many prayers reach God's ears about every need, our own and those of others.

2 Corinthians 1:11 [NIV] *“as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”*

Colossians 4:12 [NIV] *“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”*

Here we have a good example of prayer: a) praying for others; b) that they would remain faithful to God; c) others would be doing the Will of God; d) that others would mature through doing God's Will; e) that they would be encouraged by God by knowing that they were fulfilling His Will.

A balanced combination of earnest prayer for other people and the work that God is doing on earth.

If our prayer life shows God that we have our mind and heart in His Work and others who are part of that Work, we will be like-minded to our Friend, Jesus the Christ.

Our Friend whose total motivation is to complete the Work that the Father has given Him to do.

Our prayers will be effective to the degree they are centred away from ourselves and towards the needs of others and the Work of God here on earth.

The really converted person will grow spiritually through the indwelling Holy Spirit of God in them flowing out in prayers and actions that are centred on others and the Work Christ is doing through us in the world today.

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

Romans 5:5 [NIV] *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into [through] our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

This change of attitude will not happen overnight; most of us are in a deep selfish rut that will be a struggle to climb out of.

I found the following five different approaches to God in prayer helpful in seeking to attain the friendly partnership with Jesus Christ.

- 1 **Sinner and Saviour**, which is the only logical starting point.
- 2 **Servant and Master**. We are purchased, like a slave, by the Blood of Jesus Christ
Acts 20:28 [NIV] *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”*
So we need to have the attitude of a slave: humble, submissive, and always ready at hand to do our Master’s bidding.
Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*
- 3 **Steward and Master**. We have been given the job of a steward over what is God’s by right as Creator. Our body, our mind, our talents, God’s Word and His Purpose for mankind [the gospel message].
- 4 **Friend to Friend**. The more we get to know Jesus Christ through listening to Him [study of His Words] and talking to Him [in our heart-felt prayers] the nearer we will be to this close relationship.
- 5 **Wife and Husband**. The ultimate goal and approach to Jesus Christ. A life-long intimate married partnership.
Revelation 19:7-9 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! **For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

The pathway to such a relationship is through right motivated and directed prayer.

Only you can do what is necessary to build such a relationship with God, to become the Friend of God, through the Power of Prayer.