

FIRE FALL

Day Five: Useless Prayers

In 2010, a Pew Research Study found that 57% of Americans pray every day. An additional 19% pray at least weekly, and another 11% pray occasionally. Only approximately 13% of Americans never pray. If so many people pray in America, then why is wickedness and antichrist behavior becoming so widespread? The answer is that while 87% of Americans pray, only a fraction of those individuals are faith filled believers expecting the presence of God to manifest.

However, useless prayers are not confined to non-believers. James, the brother of Christ, taught us that there are two things that hinder prayers. First, doubts make prayers useless (1:6-7). Second, wrong desires negate the power of our prayers (4:3).

The author of Hebrews expounds on these factors a little farther in his treatise on faith: “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (11:6). *Answered prayers are always directly related to the faith of the believer.* Faith cannot work properly when doubts rule your heart, and without faith you will seek only your own desires instead of seeking the Creator.

No matter how much you pray, if you don't know who you're praying to, your prayers are useless. If you don't believe in the God who wants you to seek Him, your prayers are useless. Useless prayers may make you feel better for having prayed, but they will never become the catalyst for God's glory to manifest nor for His will to be accomplished.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.