

we see prayer as a walk. "Think of yourself as on a bushwalk with Jesus. You're walking down the track together. Sometimes you're engrossed in deep theological discussions. Other times you're just commenting on the landscape. Suddenly a brown snake slithers into your path and you're yelling for help. Then there is the moment you stand together admiring the sunset. No words. No comments. But real communication."

That picture of prayer-life as a walk with Christ puts us on the road to being ready to pray all the time. It means we must be "serious and watchful," as Peter stated. This allows us to "be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

Whether we have a clunker that is on its last clunk or a schedule that hardly leaves room for sleep, we need to keep in constant communication with our Father. We need His companionship at all times, and we may need His help at any time. --DB

REFLECTION

- How long would it take me to get things right with God so I could, in good conscience, talk with Him? What is standing in the way?
- Do I see Jesus as my constant companion? As someone with whom I can share all my good news as well as my requests?

When you walk with Jesus, it's easier to talk with Jesus.

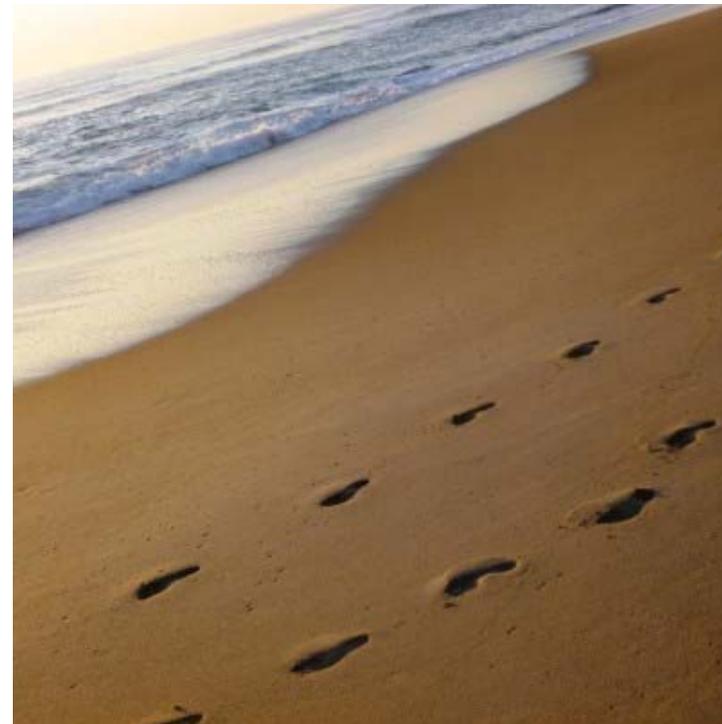


SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Are You Ready To Pray?

You're driving along on the motorway and your car starts to sputter and spit. The gauges start blinking at you, and you feel the engine losing power. It's over a kilometre to the next exit, and you seriously wonder if the old clunker will make it that far.

Can you pray for God's help? Is it possible, without prior warning, for you to talk to God right now? Or are there some things you have to get squared



away as the smoke rolls out of the exhaust and the engine protests? Do you need to reintroduce yourself to God? Confess some sins? Recall how to start up a conversation with Him?

One way to be ready to pray was suggested by Mark Littleton. He suggested that



I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Prepare for the End I

(1 John 2:19) "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."

(Romans 13:12) "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

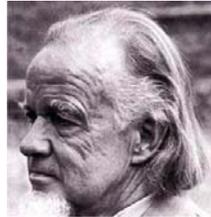
(James 5:8) "You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

(Revelation 22:10) "And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."

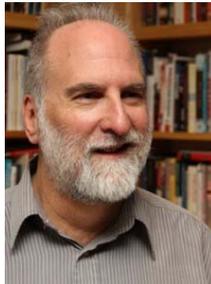
In 1 Peter 4:7-11 Peter gives us 4 essentials for end time living:

1. P _____, verse 7, 2 Peter 3:1-12

(1 Thessalonians 4:18) "Therefore comfort one another with these words."



Francis Schaeffer



Bill Muehlenberg



2. L _____, verse 8

(Ephesians 4:32) "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

(John 13:35) ""By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.""



Cold shoulder

Love may require getting involved:

◆ _____ your own heart and life

(Matthew 7:1-5) ""Judge not, that you be not judged. {2} "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

{3} "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? {4} "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? {5} "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

◆ Check your _____,

(Galatians 6:1) "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

◆ Your aim is to _____ them,

(Matthew 18:15) ""Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."

(Matthew 24:12) ""And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

