

DID YOU THINK TO PRAY? – PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

INTRODUCTION

1. Scripture encourages us to always be praying (**Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18**).
2. Now this does not mean we should do nothing all day, every day but pray.
3. So, when exactly should we pray?
4. Let us consider the hymn, “Did You Think To Pray?” and notice four occasions when disciples should be drawing near to God in prayer.

DISCUSSION

I. FIRST THING IN THE MORNING

- A. *“Ere you left your room this morning, Did you think to pray? In the name of Christ our Savior, Did you sue for loving favor, As a shield today?”*
- B. How did you start your day today?
- C. Some of us may have a morning routine where we do certain things every day when we get up (i.e. coffee, morning news, etc.).
- D. Or maybe you are someone who sleeps as long as possible and gets up at the last possible moment, throws on some clothes, and heads out for the day.
- E. Regardless of what you do, this first stanza reminds us of the need to begin the day with God (**Ps. 5:3**).
- F. Doesn’t this make sense if we believe He is our Creator and the giver of life and of each day we have (**Gen. 1:26-28; Jas. 1:17; 4:13-15**)?
- G. Doesn’t this make sense if He is the most important being in our lives (**Matt. 22:37-38**)?
- H. When we think about what Jesus did so we could have access to the Father in prayer whenever we need it, we have even more reason to draw near in His name (**John 14:13-14; Heb. 4:14-16**).
- I. Let us begin each day in prayer since there is not a day that goes by that we will not need to look to God for protection and favor (**Ps. 3:3; 119:114**).

II. IN MOMENTS OF TEMPTATION

- A. *“When you met with great temptation, Did you think to pray? By His dying love and merit, Did you claim the Holy Spirit As your guide and stay?”*
- B. The Bible declares to us that all people sin (**Rom. 3:23**).
- C. And even though we are now in Christ, we still are subject to temptation and to sin (**Jas. 1:12-15; 1 John 2:15-17; Gen. 3**).
- D. This is why Jesus taught us to pray that we would not give into temptation (**Matt. 6:13; Luke 22:40**).
- E. But when that moment of temptation comes for you, what will you do?
- F. The second stanza reminds us that this is also a time to pray.
- G. Jesus gave His life as a ransom that we might no longer be enslaved to sin (**Rom. 6:3-4, 17-23**).

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- H. So, we should draw on His power and on the Holy Spirit to not only comfort us, but to also instruct us and lead us in putting to death the lusts and sinful passions in our hearts (**Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18-21; 6:10-18; Jas. 4:1-4**).
- I. Let us never forget to pray to God when we are tempted for the power to resist and to escape from temptation (**1 Cor. 10:13; Ps. 119:11**).

III. IN TIMES OF ANGER

- A. *"When your heart was filled with anger, Did you think to pray? Did you pray for grace, my brother, That you might forgive another Who had crossed your way?"*
- B. Speaking of temptation, anger is something we must be careful with (**Jas. 1:20**).
- C. There is probably not a single person among us who hasn't struggled with anger.
- D. Sometimes we are angry for good reason and sometimes we aren't.
- E. And while being angry is not necessarily a sin, it can lead us to sin which is why Scripture tells us to do something about it (**Eph. 4:26-27**).
- F. And here in the third stanza we are reminded that when we are angry, before we say or do anything, we need to slow down and pray (**Jas. 1:19-20**).
- G. Pray for grace to let go of our anger and respond in love (**1 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 4:31**).
- H. Pray for grace to be able to speak in the best way (**Col. 4:5-6**).
- I. Pray for grace to be able to let go of anger and forgive those who have hurt us or wronged us (**Matt. 6:14-15**).

IV. IN TIME OF TRIAL

- A. *"When sore trials came upon you, Did you think to pray? When your soul was bowed in sorrow, Balm of Gilead did you borrow At the gates of day?"*
- B. Here in the fourth stanza, we see another time when the saints should pray.
- C. As the Bible says, all of us will have times of trial and testing in this life (**Jas. 1:2-4**).
- D. Sometimes it is our fault, or sometimes it is someone else's, and sometimes it is simply time and chance.
- E. But regardless of why they come, they are times we need to turn to God in prayer.
- F. This was the example of Jesus and so many faithful disciples (**Luke 22:39-46**).
- G. They understood where to go to find a "balm" that would bring comfort and strength in times of struggle, suffering, and doubt (**Jer. 8:21-22; 46:11**).
- H. God is the one who knows all our troubles and we can find comfort and grace in our trials in prayer (**Heb. 4:14-16; 2 Cor. 1:3-7; Jas. 5:13-18**).

CONCLUSION

1. *"O how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day; So when life seems dark and dreary, Don't forget to pray."*
2. Prayer is where we talk to God about the life we are living together, and it is essential for life.
3. Let us keep this hymn in our hearts to remind us of this truth and let us not forget to pray.