

Humility in Prayer

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The prayer of the humble has a way of claiming God's attention. Jesus declares that God hears the prayer of the humble. Those who are fully convinced of their own righteousness and who look down on others cannot be reconciled with God. If we serve the Lord wholeheartedly, our petition will be heard. We must not cease praying with humility and keep our faith.

1. What should we know about prayer:

- 1.1. **Pray always without becoming weary.** Be persistent in praying; refuse to give up especially in the face of opposition and difficulty, until the Most High has looked down to hear us.
- 1.2. **Persistent prayer keeps us in God's presence day after day.** We become closer to God. He will always be on our side, will give us strength and will save us from all evil.
- 1.3. **Persistent prayer helps us define our request.** Most of the time, we do not get what we want, but we will get what we need.
- 1.4. **The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but we will hear Him.** God hears us when we align our will to His will.
- 1.5. **Persistent prayer builds our faith.** Our unceasing prayer amidst repeated failures will strengthen our faith in God.
- 1.6. **Prayer is not a duty; it is a privilege.** We must thank the Lord for giving us this privilege to relate with Him despite being sinners.
- 1.7. **God does not despise sinners, He despises those who pretend to be righteous.** The Pharisee's prayer was not heard because his prayer was praising himself. In contrast, the tax collector presented himself before God with a sense of embarrassment. Beating his breast, he acknowledged his sinfulness and

pled for mercy. His was a true prayer; hence it was heard (Lk 18:9-14).

1.8 God loves sinners. God believes we can still change. Our prayer for forgiveness calls for true repentance. "A humble contrite heart, o Lord, You will not spurn" (Ps 51:17).

Conclusion:

We must keep on praying, not lose hope and not give up, despite failures and difficulties. As Pope Francis said "We are all sinners, but may the Lord not let us be hypocrites. Hypocrites do not know the meaning of forgiveness, joy and the love of God". Our acceptance and amendment of mistakes will lead us closer to a better relation with God.

Reflection:

What iniquities, wickedness, and vices do you have to admit and amend before God?

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