

## Communicating With God

Every day, each of us are faced with decisions. Some of these are not very important, while others are extremely important. In this country, we are encouraged to be independent. We're taught to be self-sufficient and told we are capable of making our own decisions without any input from anyone. But, as a Christian, we cannot ascribe to that philosophy. Our important decisions should be prayerful ones.

In **Luke 6:12-13**, we read:

**“One of those days Jesus went out into the hills to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His disciples to Him and chose 12 of them, whom He also designated apostles.”**

In this scene, Jesus demonstrates the key relationship between important decisions and communication with God as a Father who is loving and willing to help in our decision-making. In the seclusion of the hills, Jesus brought His most crucial needs and concerns before the Father. The decision He made in His apostles would make the difference between a flourishing church or a movement without direction or leadership. Jesus clearly modeled the importance of filling our lives with prayer.

Jesus prayed for Himself in John 17 so that He might be glorified. Jesus prayed later for His disciples so that they might be strong and effective after He ascended to the Father. Jesus prayed for all the believers so that they would be a unified force for Him in the future. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane so that He could face the impending horrors of Calvary.

Steve Yates, a minister in Conroe, says this about prayer:

“Prayer is not a panacea (cure-all); it is not a spiritual stimulant; it is not even a 1-2-3 step process to perpetual happiness—it is difficult at times; it demands openness and trust; it is a place where all our masks and protectives can be stripped away; it is a blessing to those who fill their hearts with hope through the with God they receive. Prayer is for parents with teenage people in their family. Prayer is for the wife who wants to hang on to and love the husband who is a raving “middle-age crazy.” Prayer is for the man who is seeking to minister to his wife who is drowning in depression. Prayer is for the single person who aches for others understanding and love. Prayer is for the young person who stands at the crossroad and trembles at the thought of deciding. Prayer is for people.”

We should all take a closer look at prayer and how we can be strengthened and helped by it. It is our line of communication to God—one we cannot forsake.