

DO YOU PRAY?

A question for everybody

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DO YOU PRAY? A QUESTION FOR EVERYBODY

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

I desire then that in every place the men should pray (1 Timothy 2:8)

I want to ask you an exceptionally important question. It is the title of this short book and it is contained in just three words:

Do you pray?

Only you can answer that question. Your minister knows whether you attend public worship or not. Your relatives know whether you have family prayers at home or not. Your friends may know whether you pray with other people. But only you know whether you pray in private. That is a matter between just you and God.

I beg you to think carefully about this. Please do not say that the question is too personal. If your heart is right in God's sight, it should not be a problem. There is nothing to be worried about. Please do not try to sidestep my question by saying that you 'say your prayers'. We all know that it is one thing to say your prayers, and another thing entirely to 'pray'. And please do not tell me that my question is unnecessary. Bear with me a little while longer, and I will show you that I have some very good reasons for asking it.

I. I ASK, 'DO YOU PRAY?' BECAUSE PRAYER IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO A PERSON'S SALVATION

I say, 'absolutely necessary'—and I am choosing my words carefully. (Let me say that I am not speaking about children, nor those who have limited understanding, nor of the unbeliever who has never heard the gospel. I am fully aware that where little is given, little will be required.) I am talking about those who call themselves Christians. And I sincerely believe that if a person does not pray, they cannot expect to be saved.

Let me say that I believe in salvation by grace as strongly as anyone. I would gladly offer a free and full pardon to the greatest sinner that ever lived. I would not hesitate to stand by their deathbed, and say, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, even now, and you will be saved.' I am a firm believer in salvation by grace. But I cannot see anything at all in the Bible that says someone could