On Prayer

In December 1944, General Patton launched a counter attack against the German Army in Northern France. Needing badly for a break in a snowstorm, he ordered his chaplain to come up with a prayer for good weather. When the weather did turn clear next morning, he awarded the chaplain with a Bronze Star on the spot.

During my years in the Navy, I was often asked to pray for good weathers for ceremonies, though jokingly half of the time. My standard response was that I was only in sales not administration.

Many people actually believe that we can make God answer our prayers if we do it right. A few years ago, a man wrote a book teaching people how to pray for extraordinary blessings. He claimed that if we bought his book, handed it on the wall, and repeated the prayer of Jabez, (I Chronicles 4:10) word-for-word, every day for a month, we will see God's power released in our lives. The book became an international bestseller. More than 9 million people thought that they had found a way to frame God to give them extra blessings.

The Biblical position, however, is that God hears and answers prayer according to what God thinks is best for us. We should let God make the decision. God answered Jabez's prayer at his wisdom not that Jabez found a right formula for effective prayers.

Jesus encouraged us to pray. He said, “Ask and it will be given to you.” Nonetheless, he told us to pray for God’s Kingdom and that God’s will be done. We should also pray for forgiveness. For our own need, we pray simply for our daily bread.

To pray is to communicate with God. It is a way to get close to God and far from temptation. Prayer helps us to set priority in life. Seek our spiritual growth first and our needs will be fulfilled. Trust and obey - blessings our way.

Let us pray**: Our Father in heaven, help us to get closer to you day by day. Help us to trust you and let you guide our way. Amen.**

談禱告

一九四四年十二月美國白頓將軍在法國北部向德軍反攻，但連日天降大雪，他的機動部隊不能進軍，緊急之餘，他命隨軍牧師發佈了一篇禱文，祈求改變天氣。次日早晨竟然天朗氣清，他開心之餘，立刻頒發了一枚銅星勳章給牧師。

我在海軍多年中，每逢軍中有特別慶典，大家都半開玩笑地請我祈求風和日麗，我總是循例回答說：「我是在宣傳部，不是在行政部，所以我不能管行政事務啊!。」

很多人真的相信我們若能用某種方法去祈求，就可以呼風喚雨了。數年前有人寫了一本書，叫人把書掛在牆上，每日重複地念雅比斯的禱文 (歷上 4:10) ，一個月後，神必彰顯祂的大能，賜恩予人。這本書竟賣了九百萬本，可見世人對禱告誤解之深。

聖經對禱告早有明訓。神必依祂的美意，按時賜我們最好的福氣。只有神才真正知道我們的需要。神昔日應允雅比斯的祈求。自有祂的原因，並不是雅比斯發現了什麼禱告的妙法。

耶穌也曾說：「祈求就必得著。」不過祂教我們先求神的國和神的義，又願主旨得成，然後祈求天父的饒恕。對個人的需要，我們只須祈求日用飲食而已矣!

禱告是與神交通，與主親近。禱告可叫我們遠離試探。我們要妥善地安排生命中事務的優先秩序，多追求靈命的長進。靈命若能日漸增長，事業自然蒸蒸日上。我們多禱告，將其餘的一切事都交託於上帝手中，主必看顧。

請禱告：**我們在天上的父，求祢使我們每日與主更親近。幫助我們信靠祢，讓祢帶領我們一生的路程。阿們。**