

Prepare to Pray

Prepare for prayer? I thought prayer was something we simply did on the spur of the moment! Why on earth should we have to prepare for prayer? First, we must understand what it means to prepare for prayer. There are many people in this world who live their lives as they see fit, ignoring with full knowledge the will of God. Granted, no one knows everything they need to when it comes to God, but they know enough to realize their lives are not pleasing to him. THEN SUDDENLY something happens, normally tragedy strikes. The sole supporter loses his job, a relationship comes to a close, or maybe a loved one meets their maker. Times like these find us on our knees before the almighty. But God knows where our hearts have been, and where they are now. IS IT with sincerity of heart I approach HIM? Or is it because MY life has added a wrinkle I wasn't comfortable with? Without question the Lord is omnipotent and "hears" our every word, but does he answer the prayers favorably of a man who only seeks Him in the hour of trial? Many have taught that the gravest of sinner need but only open his lips, and God will grant him the wishes of His heart! The Bible does not paint the same picture. Nahum 1:7 says, The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him." If this was the only verse I ever read, it would lead me to believe that God grants relief to any and all who beckon His name. BUT.....David wrote, "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High; And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me. " and also: "Come and hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear" The prophet Isaiah added: "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear." From the N.T we read, "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him." and finally from James,