

“What we’ve got here is... failure to communicate”

2008

Strother Martin & Paul Newman in ‘Cool Hand Luke’

How are your communication skills with God?

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

Matthew 21:22 ..whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Revelation 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

Do you think Paul Newman knew he was on to more than just a little something when he spoke those words?

Communication, or the lack thereof, can be the root of all sorts of successes and failures. If you have them, think about your kids. How often do they think we're incapable of seeing life their way? They do and say things that raise the hair on the back of your neck and nearly put you in attack mode! But did they really say what you think they said or were you half listening and were they talking "at" you rather than "to" you? It happens, we all do it, and often we react with knee-jerk reactions rather than thinking it through.

Now, think about your relationship with your wife or girlfriend, or the other way around for you ladies. Do we expect our spouses to be able to read our minds? Sometimes it would appear! How often has there been strife due to miscommunication or no communication at all? Probably more than once I'm willing to bet.

We **MUST** keep clear communication lines open at all times! It's true for business and home life alike. In both cases, if an unfavorable situation presents itself, quick and clear communication between both parties can often head-off what could otherwise be a disaster!

Now let's take it a step further. How well do you communicate with your Creator? The One who put you here and allows you to take your next breath. The One that gave you the perfect partner, who'll stand beside you in sickness and health. The Creator, the One who loaned you your sons and daughters, to try to raise in a Godly way. They aren't yours; they belong to God Almighty just as you belong to Him.

Do you talk to Him on a regular basis? Or as a last resort, do you go to Him ask him to clean up the mess you've made? If the only time your spouse or kids ever spoke to you were to ask you to fix something or get them out of trouble, wouldn't that get old? I'd start looking for a place to hide when I saw them coming... but not our God! He's on call 24/7, year after year. Shouldn't we talk to Him every single day whether or not we need Him to fix something? Just to thank Him for being there time after time and never turning away. Maybe even ask Him what you can do for Him today. Remember when JFK said "...ask not what your country can do for you but what can you do for your country?" What's wrong with returning God's favor? He probably won't send

you to the end of the earth, maybe He'll say, as He often does to me, "Just talk to Me, and tell Me what's on your mind."

God created us for fellowship. He likes us when we don't like ourselves and neither does anybody else! How awesome is that!?

So what we need to do is examine our prayer life. Are you talking to God regularly? He wants to hear from us, any time and any place will do. You can ask Him anything, you can tell Him anything. He's really good at keeping secrets too, and He can help you with those by the way. No problem is too great for the greatest One ever! And if you think your prayer life has to be some sort of ritual, you have to be in a certain mood, wearing your lucky slippers, forget it! Not so. You can talk to him while driving, cutting the grass, while you work, anywhere anytime.

Now, maybe some of you are thinking, God already knows what I want and need. Why doesn't He just do it without me asking? Because He wants our fellowship. He's not a programmed robot that's on automatic. If that were the case how would you know that the reason you got what you did wasn't an answered prayer? You wouldn't. And let me tell you that God is in the answering prayer business. The successes I've experienced in business are a direct result of asking for God's assistance. And, the successes are a direct result of God himself taking charge and I will give him ALL the glory for without Him I am nothing. I can do what I do all because of Him. Period.

Folks, I am no teacher or doer of great deeds. I'm here on this earth for a reason just like you, sometimes I'm not sure what the reason is but nonetheless, I'm here. But one thing I do know for sure is this; **THERE IS GREAT POWER IN PRAYER**. God says we can approach the throne boldly and make our requests known. If you'll do this, I can assure you of a changed life, a better life, a life filled with God's riches and blessings. If you're tired of doing it yourself and having to do it twice, you really want to **COMMUNICATE** with God.

Some quotes from "Master Secrets of Prayer" by Cameron Thompson

- The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.
- The secret of all failure is prayerlessness.
- Prayer is not a one-way conversation. Pray expectantly, and wait on the answer.

I highly recommend the book mentioned above. It will help open your eyes to what's been blocking you. Pray first for God to reveal something new to you and I assure you, He will. However, after reading the book the first time I discovered something, the title was wrong. There are no secrets; everything you need to know about prayer is in black, white and red right in front of you. Your Bible: pick it up, it holds the answers you're looking for.

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