

Is it More Important to Pray or Listen?

One of the staff members at the Christian college where I train adults in vocational courses in IT cannot understand why I'm not praying for my 2020 courses. It is illogical to the person that I'm not asking God to provide trainees for my course next year because it will only run if there is a sufficient number of enrolments.

The person commented in passing the other day that I must pray for more students next year. I responded that Father knows what I need so I don't need to ask. They replied that the Bible says that "You have not because we ask not"¹. I responded that I have to operate out of my sonship, a reply they didn't receive.

As I thought on this interaction on the way home on the bus I realised that if I pray for my class for next year I'm trying to manipulate God by twisting his arm, quoting the Bible as leverage.

It dawned on me that the critical foundation behind both of our attitudes for next year was: who owns the college? If the college belongs to God, then our responsibility is to ask him what he wants to happen next year and align with that. On the other hand, if we believe the college belongs to the Board and it functions on behalf of God (i.e. doing his work) then we must ask him to provide what we want. This is why the two of us operated out of different premises.

That was a revelation.

The same goes for our lives. We are not our own – we are owned by Father. He paid for us with the death of his Son.² Jesus redeemed us by paying the price of his human life to release us from slavery to Satan, so we become his property under the laws of that time.

Whatever we need, Father will supply, because we are his sons. We don't need to twist his arm or manipulate him to do what we want. Our responsibility is to see our lives as his and ask him what to do, say, go or become. Each time we do this we need to LISTEN to what he says and comply with that. It's really that simple.

Hours spent in pray is a religious activity. As spiritual beings we need to learn to live out of our spirit lives and we'll find life and events turn out must better.

This attitude enables us to rest and relax in Father's oversight of our lives.

So, from Heaven's perspective, listening is better than praying.

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3-11-2019

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1 – James 4:2

2 – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20