

Why

I am often asked to pray. Usually it is when someone is in trouble or a loved one is in trouble. It is rare people ask me why I pray. There is always what (to pray for). Seldom is the 'how' I do it asked about. Hmmm... the What, Whys and How's of praying....

My community often comes together in prayer for the needs of the community or someone in dire need. It is the community, not a specific congregation but a collection of those we have living in the Inside (the Little Finger). My particular congregation often prays for the needs of our congregation as a whole. well over a quarter of the planet's population. But not just that, we pray for all congregations, irrespective of belief. We pray for the whole world and its leaders. We pray for justice. We pray for peace.

I don't have mixed emotions when I pray for personal requests. I pray for the intentions of those who come to me in need. and certainly ask Him Who is All to answer their prayers and requests for prayers, since I know that He answer all prayers. I also know often those answers are not the ones desired. So I always also ask, after seeking His help for them, these folk can accept the answer given.

He answers what He knows is right for us even if it seems the outcome is wrong.

My mother counted money on Monday's for their Parish, the one I belonged to when I was the age of becoming a man, twelve in our tradition. She belonged until a year or two after her best friend and only lover for life made the Great Leap unexpectedly some three and a half decades later.

I believe they called themselves something. Something like the Monday Morning Counters. But they did not just count the money from the collections from the Sunday the day before. They prayed. They laughed and cried as they prayed. They prayed for all the intentions of which they knew. Over a short period of time it seemed, for some reason, they began to have an uncanny rate of success, as far as prayers for parishioners in need were answered as these people in need, wished! They accepted all His answers irrespective of outcome. It's just a lot of what they specifically prayed for they 'got'! They became a little famous and often sought after when somebody needed prayer for themselves or a loved one.

I remember two specific instances in my life of people close to me for which 'the Counters' prayed. A couple was told they never would get pregnant after over a half a decade of trying, going to the best specialists in infertility. Within less than six months of moving into the parish they were blessed with a child. In another situation involving multiple births, one of the children in the womb was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The pediatrician actually discussed aborting the tumor child. The mother would have none of it. The Monday Morning Counters got involved and on the next ultrasound, the tumor was gone.

So the Monday Morning Counters showed us a type of 'how' we pray. I do not think there is any right or only 'how' way. I think it is impossible to have the wrong way to pray. How you pray can be anything you want. The 'how' I pray is answered in the why. So the 'why', is centered in knowing the reality the answers may not seem to be what we want. But they are always what we need.

I pray because I know I talk to or plead with the One in all His Triune-ness. I pray because I know the One is listening. I know the One is answering, though I may not see it, touch it, know what it is. I pretty much pray all day long refusing to let my mind become idle or tangled up in thoughts about things I cannot control, at least at the moment. That old saying my mother would repeat constantly stuck. ***An idle mind is the devil's workshop.***

Why? ***I pray because it is the ultimate conversation,*** if one is willing to listen to the One you converse with.