



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

October 22, 2023

"Why Do Christians Pray?"

Imagine for a minute you are an experienced Christian minister and are asked by a "seeker" who knows little or nothing about Christianity, "Why do Christians pray?" Their conversation might go something like this:

Minister: I believe that prayer is a way of communicating with God. It is a way of expressing our gratitude, asking for forgiveness, and seeking guidance. Prayer is a personal conversation with God, where we can share our deepest thoughts and feelings. It is a way of building a relationship with God, growing closer to God, and understanding how God wants us to live. Christians pray because they believe that God listens to their prayers and answers them. Prayer is an essential part of the Christian faith, and it helps us to align ourselves with God's will and purpose for our lives.

Seeker: Ok. I understand that, but can you give me some examples of people who pray and how God answers their prayers?

Minister: Certainly! Abraham's servant prayed for a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:10-27). God answered the prayer because of the servant's great faith in God. We learn in 1 Samuel that Hannah, who was unable to have children, prayed for a son. God gave her a son, Samuel, who became a great prophet. Another wonderful story in 1 Kings tells how Elijah raised a dead child back to life through prayer. This was because Elijah worshipped and obeyed God.

Seeker: Those are good stories, but those are all people in the Bible. What about people alive today, like musicians, movie stars, and athletes?

Minister: That's a great question! There are many people alive today who pray and believe that God answers their prayers. Here is one example: Stephen Curry, the pro basketball player says that he prays before every game and that his faith is a big part of his life. In his Facebook series "Stephen vs. The Game" he explains that his faith resides in his creator, God, because he knows he can only control so much, and that there is a much bigger power controlling the universe.

Seeker: I didn't know that! Can you tell me about more stories like that sometime?

Minister: Of course. Just remember these are well-known examples of how God answers prayers and how people show their faith, but there are many everyday people like you and me who have the same experiences with prayer. Understand, though, that God answers prayers in His own time and in His own way. Sometimes the answer is "yes," sometimes it's "no," and sometimes it's "wait." But we can trust that God hears our prayers and will answer them according to His will.



A Prayer for Peace from the Iona Community

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our lives, our world, our universe.

Peace, peace, peace. Amen



Prayer box: let us pray for healing for Lynn, Ron, and George; Pray for the soul of Theresa and comfort for her family and friends; Pray for John's soul and comfort for his family and friends. Pray for those suffering in the Middle East. ***Lord, hear our prayer!***