

Dear AmyLi,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked if it was appropriate for a Christian to pray the mosquito prayer.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16) This scripture tells us that a believing human being on this comparatively small planet has the enormous opportunity to communicate with, to praise and to petition the Creator of all things. What a privilege! However, are there some significant guidelines for the prayer process to work effectively? Are there “rules” for prayer?

Jesus gave his disciples a guideline for prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. This model prayer is the best known among Christians as The Lord’s Prayer. It begins by humbly honoring God’s name and acknowledging his greatness. It then tells us to pray for God’s plan to unfold, to petition for our basic needs, to ask for forgiveness while forgiving others who have sinned against us, and, lastly, to ask for God’s protection and overruling in our lives. The prayer in no way blames God for our weaknesses or laments our present situation. It, instead, asks God for help, guidance, forgiveness and protection. It is also important to note that the person petitioning God is seeking the Lord’s will to be done in his life and is not seeking his own heart’s desire. The petitioner must be prepared to receive an answer that may be contrary to his wishes. Additionally, he must be willing to grow and accept change in his life if God wills it. In every case, God’s answers to prayers are directly dependent upon the heart attitude of the petitioner and, most importantly, God’s will in relation to the circumstances. Therefore, connection and communication with God grow in proportion to the petitioner’s dedication to God’s will.

The Apostle Paul gives us good advice in Philippians 4:4-9. He tells us to always rejoice in the Lord, not to be anxious about anything, and to pray with thanksgiving. He then says to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy and put these thoughts into practice. By following these scriptural guidelines as we ask for strength and help in time of need, we are on our way to becoming mature Christians.

Christian maturity is summed up in the fruits of the spirit, found in Galatians 5:22-23. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” We can evaluate our spiritual progress by the degree in which each of these fruits is being developed in us. To help us develop, God will often allow various experiences and trials to come our way, to be used for our benefit as we mature, growing in grace. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-3) “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Is it appropriate for a Christian to pray the mosquito prayer? The writer of the prayer laments the fact that he is a mosquito and must sting in order to survive. He wishes he had been created a fly so that he could live on sugar water or a butterfly and drink honey. He asks God why he had to be born a mosquito. He tells God, "I did not make myself. You did not ask me whether I wanted to be a mosquito. Neither did my parents."

We feel this prayer is disrespectful to God. When God gave the writer of the prayer the gift of life, God also gave him free will, as He has given each of us since Adam. If the writer feels he needs to "sting" people in order to survive, it is his choice, not God's. Rather than criticize God for his choice of action, the writer ought instead pray for forgiveness and for the grace and strength needed to change his unacceptable behavior.

We particularly find the end of the mosquito prayer interesting. It says, "Dear God, will there also be mosquitos in the kingdom of God? What are you going to do with those that have stung others?"

Yes, there will be "mosquitos." We believe that the Day of Judgment will be a time when people will come forth from their graves to have an opportunity to make right the wrongs of their previous lives and to learn what true righteousness is and have it written in their hearts. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves [those who have followed after Jesus during the Gospel age as well as everyone else] shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good unto a resurrection of life [they receive a heavenly reward]; and they that have done evil [the remainder of the world who have not qualified for a heavenly reward, due to the time in which they lived, their characters, or their lack of faith, etc.] unto a resurrection of damnation [judgment]." (John 5:28-29) This 1000-year Day of Judgment will give everyone who has ever lived a second chance for everlasting life on earth in the kingdom of God. However, if a person refuses to live righteously after a period of testing, he will be taken away in the second death (Revelation 21:8).

Will there be "mosquitos" (people who act like mosquitos) in the kingdom of God? Yes, they will be given a chance in the kingdom to reform their ways and learn righteousness, but, if they refuse to reform, they will be taken away in the second death. We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio