

My Prayer Life

When I was a young child my prayer life was like a Christmas list for Santa. I do not remember praying much before I was 12. That year was a pivotal year for my prayer life. My Brother had died, and I knew God performed miracles and so I asked for the impossible. I wanted the whole nightmare to be a mistake and my brother back, if not then let me join him. I even prayed for an exchange, me for him. My prayers were not answered in the ways that I hoped, and it took me many years to see that. But what I have come to realize was the way that God did answer my prayers. Many times, I saw my brother in my decisions and in my attitude. He had not left me alone. When faced with choices I found myself saying and doing what I knew Bill would want me to do. I did not listen to those who did not have my best interests at heart. Instead, I listened to the teachers who saw my potential, to the school Nurse who encouraged me to further my education and my brother's words about how I should be treated, and the importance of education came to me from the letters he had written me and the memories we shared. God put the very people in my path that would help me including the woman from church who would take me on rides with her to Port Huron and talk about anything and everything and taught me about valuing myself. Over the years from a child that did not attend church to an adult who rarely missed my prayer life changed. Today I went to the Dentist. The office was busy, and the waiting room was getting full. The dentist came in and asked me how I was doing. I told him of my recent health issues, and he said we needed to pray and could he do that for me. I agreed and he put his hand on my shoulder and prayed a beautiful prayer. I knew he was busy, but he took the time to sit down and pray with me. There was a time when I would not have accepted his offer of prayer, knowing I was not worthy but now I have learned that in God's eyes we are all worthy of prayer. God loves and hopes for each of us.

Mark 11:24-25 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so your Father in heaven may forgive you,

Lord, hear our prayer. Forgive us our unforgiving ways, free us from our anger and distrust. Be with those who hunger may we be your hands and feet that serve them. Be with those especially those in Ukraine who are homeless and trying just to survive. May we be your servant to them. Be with our efforts, may they be in your name. Be with our church, may we be a welcoming place, a safe place. Bless our Pastor and bless his ministry. Be with our staff and leaders, may all they do be a blessing to others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson