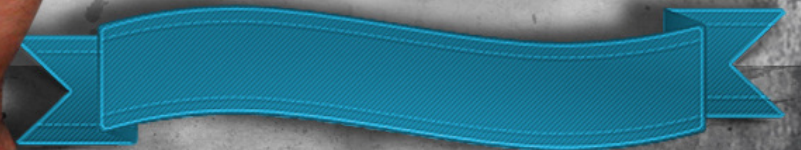




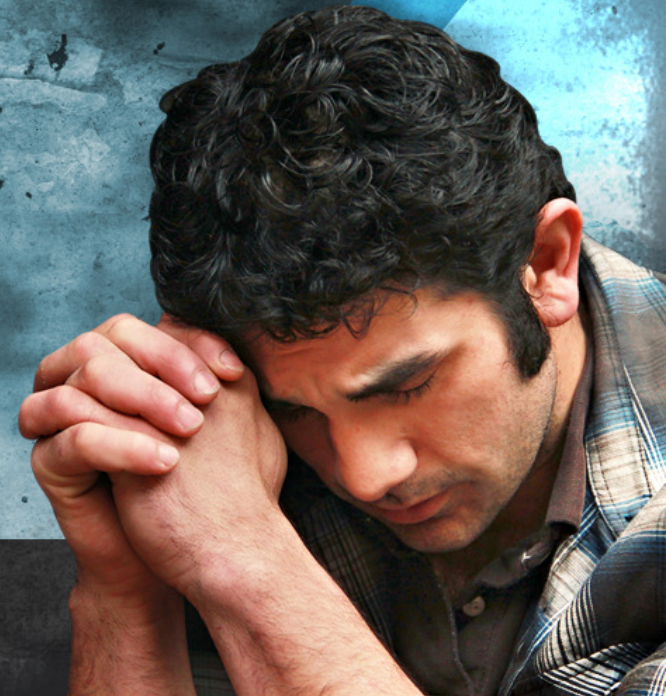
**THE
CHRISTIAN'S
GREATEST
BENEFIT**



Look at the Old Testament Jew's greatest advantage over the nations:

Numbers 27:21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the Lord: **at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in**, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

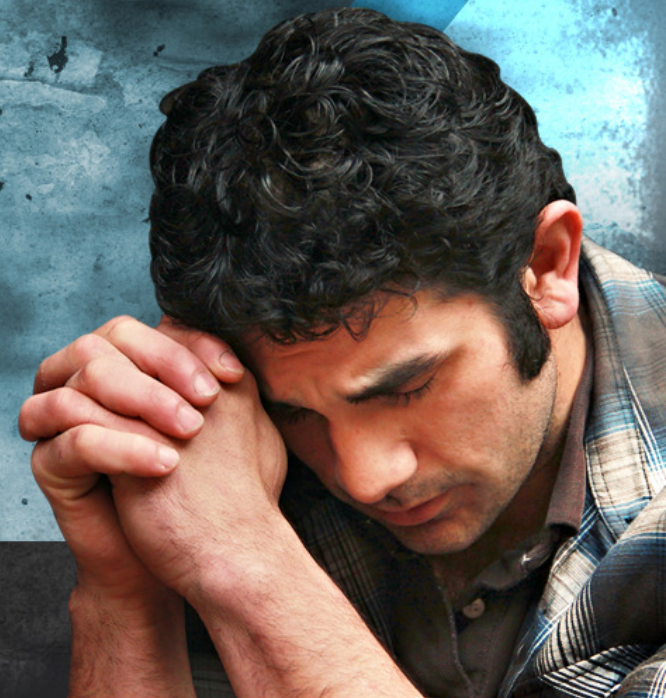
Judges 1:1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel **asked the Lord, saying**, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?



Judges 20:18, 23 And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and **asked counsel of God**, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the Lord said, Judah shall go up first.....(And the children of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until even, **and asked counsel of the Lord**, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the Lord said, Go up against him.)

1 Samuel 14:37 And Saul **asked counsel of God**, Shall I go down after the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.

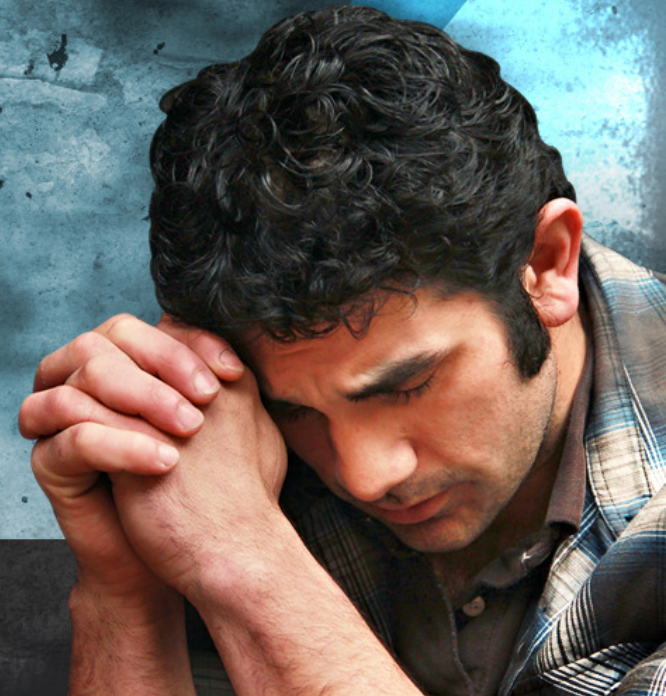
1 Samuel 23:2 Therefore David **enquired of the Lord**, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the Lord said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.



1 Kings 22:7 And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, **that we might enquire of him?**

2 Chronicles 20:4 And Judah gathered themselves together, **to ask help of the Lord:** even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

“If you want that splendid power in prayer, you must remain in loving, living, lasting, conscious, practical, adining union with the Lord Jesus Christ.” *C.H. Spurgeon*



I. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER.

A. Receiving of Good Things.

Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

⁹ Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

¹⁰ Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, **how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**



B. Finding Peace.

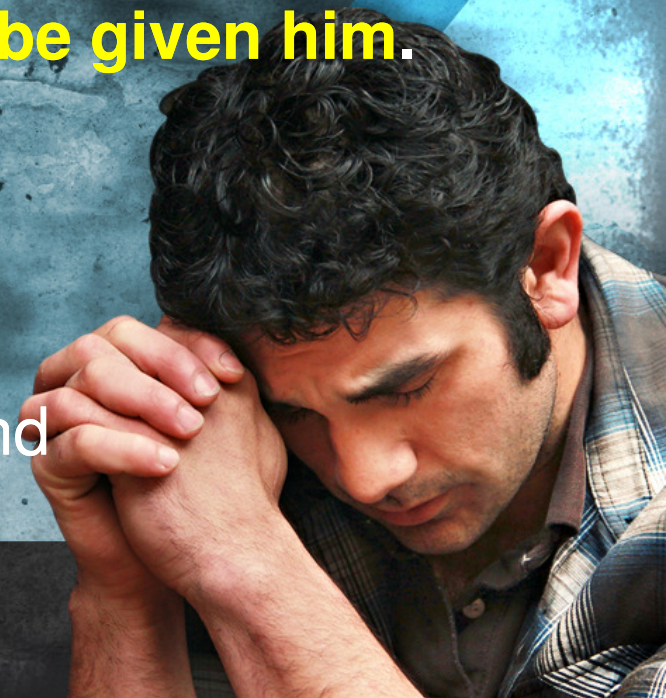
Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

C. Obtaining Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and **it shall be given him.**

D. Obtaining Help

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to **help in time of need.**



II. THE HINDURANCES TO CHRISTIAN PRAYER

A. Not Praying.

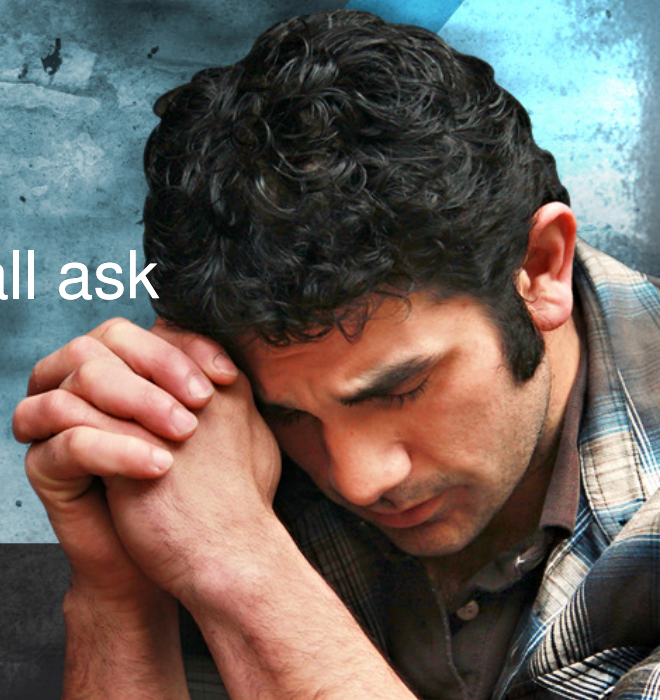
1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray **without ceasing**.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and **not to faint**;

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, **because ye ask not**.

B. Lack of Faith.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.



C. Earthly Relationships.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that **thy brother hath ought against thee;**
²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

D. The Admiration of Sin.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, **the Lord will not hear me:**



E. Being Double Minded.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, **ye double minded.**

