

## WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



## How to Pray



O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.—Psalms, 63:1.

Does the occultist believe in prayer? Absolutely, provided we pray aright. While it is true that as fragments of God we are possessed of His completeness, still we are all-sufficient within ourselves at present only potentially. The child is potentially the man, but until he comes near that estate dependence upon his parents is indispensable to his sustenance and development. God is the Source of that which we must become, and right prayer which enables us to contact that Center of Divine Power is essential to the growth of the spiritual infant within us.

The prayer of a true occultist is internal action, not a mechanical murmuring of words, or a selfish petition for favors. Such prayers vibrate to the material plane only and rise no higher than the chemical ether of the earth, because they do not contain the spiritual impetus necessary to speed them to the celestial realms.

Right prayer literally springs from a passionate longing to pour forth our gratitude and adoration to the God who gave us birth, actuated by a hunger of spirit for spirit; a yearning for increased love, wisdom, and power for greater service.

In *The Web of Destiny*, page 132, Max Heindel says: "When we go to our sanctuary we must go as the lover who hastens to his beloved, our Spirit must fly ahead of our slow moving body in eager

anticipation of the delights in store for us, and we must forget all else in the thoughts of adoration which fill us on the way. This is literally true; the feeling required for success resembles nothing in the world so much as that which draws the lover to his beloved; it is even more ardent and intense. 'As the hind panteth for the water brook, so thirsteth my soul after Thee,' is an actual experience of the true lover of God."

But even in this delight in communing with our Lord we must beware lest a selfishness develop and destroy our soul growth. We must discover whether we love God for Himself, or if we love Him for the delights we experience in times of sweet communion with Him. If the latter, our affection is selfish and must be promptly corrected.

Selfless, altruistic earnestness, the incense of sincere devotion, charges our prayer with a magnetic energy that bears it to the Throne of the Father, where it attracts to itself the blessings we need and returns to us laden with the response we often call miracles. Such prayer is an internal action which alchemically purifies all our vehicles, releasing proportionately our own indwelling Spirit. The result is increased efficiency through the quickening of all our faculties, a deepening inner peace and self-confidence and, above all, a growing power not possessed by the masses which equips us to render to them the spiritual service so acutely needed today.

Let this be our daily prayer: "Oh, God, increase my love for Thee so that I may serve Thee better from day to day."