

PRAYER POINTS FROM PRAYING WITH FIRE 2

NEAREST AND DEAREST

Often, a person's relationship with the Almighty, expressed in his tefillah(prayer), is the mirror-image of this story. The Jewish people are instructed as to how to pray – enabling them to forge a relationship with God. Through liturgy, they have been provided with the precise words to use. What is sometimes missing is the sincere emotion behind the words, an emotion that can arise only from a true inner desire to build a meaningful connection.

How does one build a durable, secure relationship that draws the Almighty's blessing into a person's life? The answer is practical, not mystical, and is achievable by anyone willing to apply forethought and effort to this all-important task

Prayer demands more from us. One must think beforehand of what he hopes to accomplish when he prays. More than beseeching the Almighty for his needs, one seeks a meaningful relationship between himself and his Creator.

Every person needs to feel loved, to feel that someone cares about his concerns and stands steadfastly on his side. In coming before the Almighty, a person can infuse himself with the joy of knowing that this is the One Who will be listening to his prayers. The person is going to speak to the Source of All that is powerful and good.

It would seem clear that when speaking to the Almighty, a person needs to be engaged in the communication at hand with attempting to allowing your thoughts to drift.

Boredom is the enemy of every close, familiar relationship. There are many strategies to counteract the powerful tendency to become overly accustomed to words of prayer that are repeated several times a day, every day.

Trust is the key to all relationships, between one another and between us and God. To thrive and grow, all of these relationships require faith in the other one's goodwill and commitment. This is what enables trust to endure in the face of the occasional hurt or disappointment. Even more so, trust is the essential key to one's relationship with the Almighty.

Many people, in a time of crisis, have difficulties, which in turn negatively impact on their ability to develop their relationship with a loving God. Trusting that every test, challenge, and even tragedy comes from a loving God is perhaps the most difficult demand this relationship makes upon us. Yet, every relationship needs strengthening. We build our trust by directing our hearts, over and over again, in every situation, to connect to God – through prayer.

Place your hope in God and strengthen your heart!

POINTS TO PONDER

Prayer is a relationship with God which, like all relationships in one's life, demands effort.

The same elements that forge flourishing human relationships can likewise, through prayer, forge an enduring, loving relationship with God.

The final essential element of this relationship is trust.

Psalm 42:8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. (ESV)

