

## **“MY PRIVATE LINE TO HEAVEN”**



*I see folks struggling with their prayers and shake my head.*

*For me, it's the easiest thing in the world to get through to God.*

*It's like I have a private line.*

*Any time I want to, I just ring the bell and the line opens.*

*If I'm downtown and need a parking spot, I just ring up the Father, and pretty soon, there it is! The boss gives me a hard time? I ring up the Lord and ask him to soften the old codger's heart. Bingo! The boss begins to mellow.*

*Why these folks have such a hard time getting through to heaven is a mystery to me.*

*Prayer for me is easy as pie!*

Is this the testimony of a seasoned saint, or the delusion of a modern Pharisee?



**In the Kingdom of God easy-breezy prayers are unknown.**

**And self-righteous “super-saints” sooner or later “pray” themselves into darkness.**

In God's Kingdom prayer begins the way our Master teaches us:

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.***

When we approach the Burning Bush without taking off our shoes, faith morphs into delusion.

When we pray to the Father with casual glibness, our prayer evaporates into thin air.

***Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.***  
*Matthew 5*

The Pharisee who gives thanks to God that he is “not like other men”, prays with great ease.

**He thinks he has a private line to heaven.**

Actually he’s just talking to himself.

The Tax Collector who stands far off crying “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” goes home with his prayer answered.



**No prayer offered with integrity is ever wasted.**

***"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."*** (Matthew 7)

But the minute we presume on God’s mercy and trivialize the gift of prayer, our “prayer” evaporates into thin air.

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.***



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Featured Art: Chris Cook at [chriscookart.net](http://chriscookart.net)

*Prayer: Holy Lord, when we approach you, the Living God, keep us from being glib or self-righteous. May we approach you with awe and reverence and humility, always taking off our shoes not only because of your greatness but also awed by and humbled by your unfathomable, loving mercy to us... knowing our line to you is no more special than any other soul who cries out to you for help. And knowing our line to you is the most precious, holy thing in our lives and theirs. Amen.*

*Maranatha Mirror*

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