

Prayer in Few Words

"Dad," a little boy once asked, "does the Lord know everything?"

"Yes, son," the father replied. The boy nodded, but didn't look very convinced, prompting the father to ask a question of his own: "Why do you ask?"

"Because," the boy answered, "when the preacher prays, he prays so long telling God everything, that I thought maybe God wasn't clued in on what's happening to folks around here."



"But if He's omniscient, wouldn't praying just annoy Him?"

It was a logical conclusion for the little boy to reach. But the reality is that God is much more concerned about our motives than in the type, amount or form of the words we use in prayer. He looks on the heart. Sometimes, a simple SOS is all that is required.

As an example, one Sunday morning the great preacher Charles H. Spurgeon passed through the door into the auditorium on his way to the pulpit. As he entered, he was overwhelmed by the great crowd of people who had already gathered for the service.

As strong in faith and as profound and experienced a preacher as he was, an assistant overheard him to pray simply, "O God, help!"

Spurgeon's prayer needed no elaboration.

And often, ours don't either.

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them (Matthew 6:7-8).

– Beecher Hunter