

## *Relationship Is Key*

A physician once went to the home of one of his patients who was dying of lung cancer. He spent time sitting at his bedside, with the man's wife and children. The dying man knew that he had little time left, and he chose his words carefully, speaking to the doctor in a hoarse whisper.

Although he had not been a very religious person, he revealed to his doctor that recently he had begun to pray frequently.

"What do you pray for?" the physician asked.

"I don't pray for anything," the dying man responded. "How would I know what to ask for?" The physician found this surprising. Surely this dying man could think of some request.

"If prayer is not for asking, what is it for?" the doctor asked.

"It isn't *for* anything," the man said after a few moments of silent thought. "It mainly reminds me I am not alone."

In a vast, impersonal, often-hostile world, that is a powerful commentary on prayer. God desires to have a relationship with each one of us. That relationship is the very reason for our creation. Relationship with God is what gives our life meaning and purpose. Relationship is what Jesus embodied – He became flesh and dwelt among us – and what the Holy Spirit establishes. Relationship is why we pray, and why we have the privilege of praying.

Relationship is the key dynamic to the success of our businesses in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home – relationship with our residents and relationship with one another in the delivery of care. And the relationship we offer daily is often the answer to the prayers of our residents.

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.* Hebrews 4:16 NIV

That advice should offer us great assurance today.

--Beecher Hunter