

Real Religion 1

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“Religion” creates a superficial relationship with God.

Matthew 11:28-30 -“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” **The Message**

Jesus provides redemption from sin that brings you directly into the “family of God.”

God honors any “heartfelt movement toward Him!

Deuteronomy 4:29 - From there (*the place of not knowing God*) you will search for the LORD your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him. **NLT**

Give me a person with a heart toward God, instead of one with a head full of knowledge.

Matthew 7:7-8 – ⁷ Ask and it **will be** given to you; seek and you **will find**; knock and the door **will be** opened to you. ⁸ For **everyone** who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. **NIV**

CORNELIUS

- Did not know God, but had a heart toward God.
- God honored his prayers and giving.

Acts 10:30-33 – ³⁰ Cornelius replied, "Four days ago I was praying in my house at three o'clock in the afternoon. Suddenly, a man in dazzling clothes was standing in front of me. ³¹ He told me, 'Cornelius, **your prayers have been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been noticed by God!** ³² Now send some men to Joppa and summon Simon Peter. He is staying in the home of Simon, a leatherworker who lives near the

shore.¹³³ So I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come. Now here we are, waiting before God to hear the message the Lord has given you." **NLT**

Acts 11:12-14 - And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter,¹⁴ who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' **NKJV**

He had to hear words whereby he could be saved.

Even though he was praying, he was praying in the dark.

God answered his heart cry, not repetitious words that lost their meaning.

Matthew 6:7-13 –⁷ 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.⁸ "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name.¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. **NKJV**

5 Different Kinds of Prayer

- All of them are real and relational, and none of them are intended to lack intimacy and power.

1. The Prayer of Agreement

Matthew 18:19 - Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. **NKJV**

2. Petition Prayer

John 16:23-24 –²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. **NIV**

3. The Prayer of Consecration and Dedication

Luke 22:41-42 - And He [Jesus] was withdrawn from them [Peter, James and John] about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done. **NKJV**

4. The Prayer of Praise and Worship

Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ***NIV***

5. The Prayer of Intercession

Ephesians 1:15-16 - Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for Christians everywhere, I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ***NLT***