

The Assurance of Prayer

Pastor Brad

Is 55:6, Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

A number of studies have tried to search out the benefits of prayer. Results often indicate that people who pray are generally happier and healthier than people who don't. This may help people to consider praying more. And people who do pray know that the benefits of prayer extend far beyond their health and their sense of happiness. Prayer is ultimately about a relationship we have with God. I am reminded of a definition of prayer given by *Chuck Swindoll*: "*Prayer is a cumulative life of friendship with God.*"

Just as a friendship involves and affects two people as they interact, so does our relationship with God. *Isaiah 55:6* makes this clear. On the one hand, we are instructed to seek God, which seems to imply that prayer happens by our initiative. But our seeking of God is only possible because God first says, "*Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters.*" God calls, and we answer. ***Prayer is our enjoyment of a banquet already prepared by God.*** We pray not because we must, but because we may. As we turn to the Lord, we find the One who has already turned to us in mercy and who freely pardons. This is the assurance of prayer—and also its greatest blessing.

Daily Prayer:

Father I praise your name, because you have first sought me, I seek you, O Lord. Because you have called to me, I call to you. Thank you for the amazing relationship I can have with you. Give me the tenacity to overcome the enemy. May my life ever reflect the grace, peace and love of Christ. In Jesus Name. Amen.