

I pray every time, but I am not too strong spiritually. Why?

That you pray all the time is very good and follows the teaching of the Lord. Paul wrote in Eph 6:18, "8 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." In Thess 5:17-18, he added, "17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

You are on the right track when you pray all the time, but prayer alone does not lead to strong spirituality. In fact, Jesus taught in John 9:31, "We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will." The godly life precedes strong and frequent prayer. Therefore, you must ask yourself, "Am I living a strong and spiritual life before God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Peter gives the answer to this question in Acts 2:37-47, when after he preached, the people responded: "37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" Peter answered them directly in verse 38: "

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Those who accepted his message to save themselves were baptized in verses 40 and 41:

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

It was at the point that they could devote themselves to prayer in verses 42, 47:

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and **to prayer**.

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

If you have not yet obeyed the gospel of the Lord Jesus, as these people did, you are not yet able to pray as a true child of God. To become more spiritual, you must put on the new life that is only in Christ. According to Rom 6:3-4, the true baptism is immersion and not sprinkling and pouring:

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

This same new life is the one spoken of by Jesus in John 3:5: "5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

Once you have turned to the Lord and obeyed him, you may give attention to your strength and spirituality day by day, every day. This is the time to turn to prayer, where you will find that you can make these prayers as strong as possible.

Do not pray to be seen of men, according to Matt 6:5-6:

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they

have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.

Forgive others before you pray that God forgive you, according to Matt 6:14-15:

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Let the word of Christ dwell in your heart, and then the Father will hear you, according to John 15:7 and Col 3:16-17

7 If you remain in me and my **words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

16 Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:16-17.

You must work as a Christian and bear spiritual fruit for the Father to give you what you ask, according to John 15:16:

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

If you have not done so, I must encourage you to obey the gospel of Christ and live fervently the Christian life. You will be strong spiritually and God will answer your prayers. Jesus said in Matt 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.

If you have not taken that first step on the road to a spiritual life – if you have not obeyed the gospel, you must hurry to do this. Paul was told before his conversion in Acts 22:16:

16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

Or if you have obeyed the gospel and fallen away, you must hurry to be restored. John wrote in John 2:1-2:

But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

You must follow Peter's command in Acts 8:22-23:

22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

If you need help in obeying the gospel or in being restored to the faith, having fallen away, you may look to the nearest church of Christ to assist you. If there is not a church near you, go back to www.gospellelessons.info and ask for that assistance in the question box.

We will pray that you conclude your quest for greater spirituality, making your heart right with God, for according to James 5:16:

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.