

Communicating with God

Grandma is Sick. She lives three states away. You and your husband are traveling to her home to take care of her. It's a 12-hour drive, but you need to do it in one day. You leave early in the morning and settle in for the trip.

As the day unfolds, the two of you have a running conversation.

“I hope Grandma is OK.”

“I think there's an accident up here.”

“Why would anyone paint their house that color?”

“Didn't we eat at that restaurant on the way home from Grandma's last summer?”

“If the kids don't behave for my sister this week, I'm going to ground them for life.”, “You can't do that—it would mean they'd never leave home.” – Good point.”

“There's this guy at work...” And so on. The conversation is informal, with long pauses and discussions on topics serious and silly. Your communication is sometimes without words—exchanging looks, smiling or sighing, pointing out some interesting sight. But being right next to each other for 12 hours, you are constantly aware of each other and in communication every moment.

Pray without ceasing?

This type of relationship God seeks with us. This is what He means when He says, “Pray without ceasing.” Many people think that to pray without ceasing means to be reading your Bible all the time or being on our knees all the time, that is not correct thinking, God wants us to be simply aware of Him always, discussing things serious and silly, chatting and listening. How about a conversation like this on the way to Grandma's house:

“I'd like Grandma to get better, but I want your will to be done Lord.”

“There's an accident ahead. Thank you that I wasn't involved in it. Help me to keep awake on this trip.”

“Thanks for my kids. Give me the wisdom to be a good parent and teach them how to walk with you.”

Prayer is not meant to be a “Monologue”

Emily Post was a member of the fashionable set. She was well educated at private institutions, spent her summers at Tuxedo Park and met her husband at a fancy ball in a mansion on New York's Fifth Avenue. Emily wrote several novels and worked as a journalist, but her greatest fame came from her book “Etiquette,” written in 1922. About “conversation” she said that what people think about your words is what they think about you. Your words are an extension of you. The two cannot be separated.

The same is true about God, His words in the Bible, are an extension of Him. To know Him you need to know what He says. Your side of communicating to God is prayer—that's your words to Him. God's side of it is the Bible. That's His words to you. To hold a conversation with God, you have to read what He says. Otherwise, it's a monologue.

