

THAT CONSISTENT FORM OF COMMUNICATION

My wife and I are often way behind the times when it comes to the latest technology. An example of this is how so many people had smart phones before we ever decided to get one. It was not until my daughter's first year playing competitive basketball that we finally decided to get one realizing how it could benefit us when travelling to various cities for games. The other parents on the team had a good laugh at our expense when we finally caught up with the times.

My wife has been using that original phone since 2018. The phone has been giving her a lot of problems lately due to a lack of storage and as a result she has had to delete many of her apps. She has been doing some research on new phones and finally this past Saturday I had some time to narrow down the options with her. It is amazing all the different factors that have to be considered when looking for a new phone. Naturally, being cheap and frugal, price is a very important consideration for me. Some considerations to take into account when looking at price are whether we want to own the phone out right at the end of the contract or trade it back in, and also the rate plan that best fits our needs.

We went on Saturday and found a new phone that was offered with a plan we thought was affordable. We then had to decide if we wanted to pay for a protection plan, for the store to transfer the data over, and whether we wanted other accessories for it. Naturally the cheap side in me declined all these extras. We brought the new phone home on Saturday and my wife spent the weekend setting it up and becoming familiar with it and saved us a \$50.00 setup fee!

This experience took me down memory lane on Monday thinking about the various phones I have used through my 60 years. My first memory was of a rotary phone where you would dial each number with your finger. I think we progressed next to the wall mount phones where we could just push each button to dial. It was great when we advanced to portable phones when we could walk around the house while talking. I never had one, but I do remember the original car phones and how bulky they seemed. Then we eventually moved to flip cell phones which then turned into our smart ones that can do so

many more things. Our technology for communicating by phones has changed so much in my lifetime.

Thankfully, a form of communication that has not changed over time is that of prayer. We are blessed that God has established prayer as the means by which we can talk with Him. Just as communicating with somebody brings us closer to them, prayer is the means to help us experience an even closer relationship with God. The psalmist David understood this as seen in this prayer found in **Psalm 5:3**:

O Lord, hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but you. Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

David understood a key part to maintaining a close relationship with God was for him to pray intentionally and consistently each morning. It makes sense that David would want to start off each morning in prayer because it is often a time when our minds are not as focused on our problems. Starting off each day in conversation with God in prayer also allows us to commit and entrust our whole day to Him. David acknowledged how doing this ***provided him with hope*** to start his day off waiting expectantly on God to answer his prayer requests.

Prayer is truly a gift and blessing we are being given as a means to communicate with God. While other forms of communication have changed and evolved over time, prayer has not undergone such a revolution but has **remained costless and priceless** when it comes to our spiritual well-being. We may make changes with other means of communication in these ever-changing times, but let's make sure like David we do not change prayer as our way of staying in communication with God. May this form of communicating with our Heavenly Father be our constant to start off each day.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean