

# Something to Pray About

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By Cindy Sears – October 2008

## **ENTER TO WORSHIP**

At the revival, Rev. Jerry Reid talked about how we ought to come to worship expecting God to touch us—and He will. Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7 NIV)

But how can God communicate with us if we are distracted and not prepared to listen? You wouldn't skip your shower or come in your pajamas to church, would you? So, take a few minutes each Sunday morning to prepare yourself for worship. Ask God to clear your mind and heart, and to give you a blessing from the service you are about to attend. Then come joyfully with a desire to participate in worship. Join in all parts of the service. Don't worry about whether or not you can carry a tune or have a good voice. Don't compare your clothes to anyone else's—or theirs to each other. Come with your mind set wholly on worshiping God and upon thanking Him for all He has given to you and done for you.

And yield yourself to Him completely, so He can use you to do His work in the church and in the world. Church attendance helps us to stabilize our lives, because we center ourselves on Jesus. Standing firmly on the foundation of Christ shields us from Satan's deceptions that are so prevalent in the world today (& yesterday).

Also, take your cares to God in your closet at home, and leave them outside the church doors. Come to church to praise, to give God the glory, to be reminded of how Great and Powerful God is—more powerful than any of your problems or concerns. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4 NIV)

In Ecclesiastes 5:1, Solomon says, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God." In other words, be alert! Pay attention! Truth is about to be revealed—the truth from God's Word and His Holy Spirit. In verses 2-7, Solomon admonishes us to take our worship of God seriously. When we draw near to God, we ought to listen well. BE QUIET. "How can you hear God if you are constantly talking? Prepare for worship in quietness...From the first strains of the music to the last word of the benediction; learn to hitchhike on God's thoughts...Draw near. Listen well, because God is communicating." (Swindoll, p. 154)

God hears the inaudible and sees the invisible, so don't daydream. Don't think about tasks that await you at home or at work next week. Concentrate on God and the service. Be still and know that He is God. (See Psalm 46:10 KJV)

"Our relationship to God is one of sober, respectful, reverent awe...False worship is as much an affront to him as obscene insults are to a wife or husband...The full adorations of our spirit, the true obedience of our heart—these are his demands and his delights." (Swindoll, p.160)

—Cindy Sears

Notes from Rev. Jerry Reid sermon & *Living on the Ragged Edge; Coming to Terms with Reality* by Charles Swindoll (A study of Ecclesiastes).