

*Most devotionals speak about a communion with Jesus or a personal relationship with Him; but, Jesus said he left to prepare a place for us and would return but that instead He's sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us in His absence. Shouldn't we only pray to God the Father (as Jesus did) in Jesus' name and let the Holy Spirit comfort us instead of working to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus since He's not here?*

Jesus told men how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13; saying, "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name (Mt 6:9)."

The first martyr Stephen cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Ac 7:59.

It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to pray. In Romans chapter eight verse 26 we read: "In the same way the Spirit also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings (Ro 8:26)." And, in Jude twenty we read: "But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life (Jud 20–21)."

All three persons of the trinity are near when one prays (Is. 55:6, Phil. 4:5–9).

Christians pray to the Father in the name of the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18–20 we read: "Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Having a personal relationships with the Lord Jesus is more than a mere intellectual ascension to the facts of the gospel (Jas 2:19). Acknowledging him is placing one's trust in him rather than one's self (Mt 12:17–21). God's way is the best way (Jn 14:6) and it is in direct opposition to the world system (Jn 17:16).

Jesus guides (Prov. 3:5, 6). In him is found: joy (Ps. 5:11), deliverance (Ps. 22:4, 5), triumph (Ps. 25:2, 3), God's goodness (Ps. 31:19), mercy (Ps. 32:10), provision (Ps. 37:3, 5), blessedness (Ps. 40:4), safety (Ps. 56:4, 11), usefulness (Ps. 73:28) and guidance (Prov. 3:5, 6). He is our inheritance (Is. 57:13).

Patrick Winfrey said, "It's not tomorrow in the sky by and by—it's now."