

## What is more important: prayer or Bible study?

What activity do you see your parents doing most? Is prayer the means to acquire the knowledge of God's word? What do most Christians advocate?

1. Carefully observe this passage in Proverbs 1. The more you observe about prayer and God's word, the less you need to interpret, and the more accurately you can apply.

When your dread comes like a storm  
And your disaster comes like a whirlwind,  
When distress and anguish come upon you.  
Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;  
They will seek me diligently but will not find me,  
Because they hated knowledge  
And did not choose the fear of the LORD.  
They did not accept my advice,  
They disdainfully rejected every rebuke from me.  
So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way,  
And be filled with their own schemes. (Prov 1:27-31, NASB)

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### Teacher Notes

What activity do you see your parents doing most? Is prayer the means to acquire the knowledge of God's word? What do most Christians advocate?

Ask the student: what do you see or hear the most – prayer or Bible study? Explore what activity the student perceives as most important in the life of a Christian.

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Ask the student: what knowledge is the author of Proverbs referring to? What do you observe about this knowledge?

It is God's advice which includes His rebuke (correction).

It is associated with the fear of the Lord.

Inform the student: the phrase "the fear of the Lord" is in the context of recognizing the absolute authority of God and fearing to disobey Him as in this example with Abraham:

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (Gen 22:11-12, NASB)

God's word is the basis of knowing what to do in obedience to God. By not attempting to acquire the knowledge of God's word, a person does not fear the authority of God nor in disobeying Him.

Ask the student: how does the author of Proverbs describe the person who hated the knowledge of God's word?

Did not choose the fear of the LORD, did not accept God's advice, disdainfully rejected every rebuke from God

Ask the student: what is your conclusion to the question "what is more important – prayer or Bible study?"