

A photograph of a bed with white linens and a wooden headboard in a dimly lit room. The bed is the central focus, with the white sheets and pillows appearing soft and slightly wrinkled. The wooden headboard is visible in the background, and the overall lighting is warm and intimate. A yellow rectangular box with a dotted border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word "Reflection" in a white, cursive font. Two light blue rectangular shapes are positioned above and below the yellow box, appearing as if they are holding it in place.

Reflection

1. The place of prayer in my life as a follower of Jesus:

For me prayer is a place that I can worship God and acknowledge His glory, His greatness and His mighty power. Prayer is a place that I can be reminded how merciful and just is my God. Prayer is a place where I can experience God's compassionate heart. It also reminds me that He reigns overall and He is the one who is in charge. During prayers God grants me peace of mind that nothing can happen to me that is out of his control or surprises Him.

Furthermore, prayer is a safe place that I can be myself and express my wonder and joy to God and I can pour out to him the feelings that are not pleasant and overwhelming me. As David would tell God exactly what he thought about his enemies, prayers is a time for me that I can bring all my thoughts and hurts to God without fear of being judged and receive God's healing.

Prayer is a time that I can be heard as well as hearing the voice of God. It's a place that I can bring all my cares and worries for my family and friends and be assured that He loves them much more than I love them. As David says in Psalm 144:1 "praise the Lord, who is my rock. He trains my hands for war and gives my fingers skill for battle": during prayers I as a member of God's army have been trained and empowered to fight and intercede for the salvation of my loved ones.

In response to your question how do I like to pray, I should say sometimes I like to sit in silence as it is said in Roman 8:26 that the Holy Spirit prays for me with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. Other times when I have no words to say I simply enjoy sitting in his presence knowing that He understands my heart. Sometimes I pray while I walk, other times I enjoy joining my family and friends to pray together. For me there is no specific place to pray, I know no matter where I am I can talk to God and seek Him whenever I need His presence, protection, guidance and wisdom.

When we pray...

When Women Speak... Webzine

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2. Learning to pray to Jesus, after learning Muslim prayer:

My prayer experience while I've become Christian is incomparable with my prayer experience in Islam. When I was a Muslim I should pray in Arabic which is not my mother language and as a Shia Muslim I had to do it three times a day. Islamic prayer is the kind of prayer in which the same words should be repeated every single time that someone prays and it is a monologue conversation with God. I would never feel connected with God and I never experienced God's presence during Muslim prayer. I just would repeat the same words that even I didn't know their meanings. Whereas in Christianity I know what I am saying to God as I pray in my mother language and also I can understand what God says to me through reading the Bible. Prayer in Christianity is two way communication with God. I can talk to God just like I talk to a friend. Since I came to Christ, prayer has become a meaningful journey with God for me. I don't have to repeat the same words every day, I can go to His presence with my questions, ideas and I can express my feelings to him. He hears my prayers and answers my questions. He brings harmony to my mind when I am confused. As we read in Jeremiah 33:3 we have an open invitation from God: "Call to me and I will answer you" and we have a promise that He hears us: "You will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29:12) Having a compassionate heart and understanding others are two precious gifts that God has given me through my prayers journey in my Christian life.

3. How I learnt to pray:

My spiritual mother had a special influence on my prayer life. She and my other Christian leaders taught me the Lord's prayer. They also taught me to pray through Scripture: this continues to shape my prayer life today. I've been taught to apply God's promises to my life.

During prayers Holy Spirit has taught me when I go through the storms of life that although sometimes I need to use my authority to stop the rain other times I should ask God to give me power and grace to go through storms. He has been faithful to his promise and

He always equips me and hides me under his wings until the storms pass by, meanwhile He gives me solution for moving forward.

4. Is there anything I miss about Muslim prayer?

No, I don't miss anything about Muslim prayer. In fact I will never replace even the worst days in my Christian life with the best days in my Muslim life because now through Christ I have a personal relationship with my Heavenly Father whereas in Islam I never could have this kind of relationship with God. I believe I belong to Jesus even during those times that I wouldn't feel His presence, but in Islam God is always distant and unreachable.

Islamic fasting and prayers might sometimes gave me good feelings but in fact it was exactly what Paul said in Colossians 2:23 "These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh".