



Reflection

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

For me as a follower of Jesus, praying is the only way that my soul can breathe. Praying is the only way that I can be connected to God and worship him through the Holy Spirit. Prayer is the only opportunity that I can be open to God's gifts and His invitation and I can respond to His love.

During my devotional times God shares His thoughts, His power, His wisdom and guidance with me. Prayer is my stability, my calm and my tranquility when I am stressed and under pressure.

Prayer is the place that my desires line up with God's desires for me. Through prayer I connect to the One who is the source of my salvation, hope, life, joy, freedom, strength, deliverance, protection, healing and comfort.

Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons that God has given us and I have been learning the more I pray on my knees the more I see God's victory in my life and in my family and loved ones.

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

Praying to Jesus for the first time in my life was accompanied with a miracle in my body. After I heard for the first time in my life that Jesus loves me and He was crucified for my sins and He rose at the third day, I asked him to reveal himself to me by healing my body and he did answer my prayer and healed me. It was so amazing to realise that He loves me and He answered the prayer of a sinner like me.

Praying to Jesus is two-way communication with God whereas Muslim prayer is one way communication. Unlike prayer in Islam, praying to Jesus is not based on force and

compulsion but it is based on love and relationship with God. I can talk to Him anytime at any place with my own mother language.

During Muslim prayer there was no connection between me and God and I couldn't bring my emotions and needs to God whereas while I pray to Jesus I can pour out my heart to him knowing that no condemnation awaits me.

Praying to Jesus for me is so enjoyable as I know not only He hears my cries but He answers my prayers. As the Psalmist says He knows me even before I speak a word, He is all around me. He is behind me and in front of me. He holds me in his power. I'm amazed at how well he knows me. It's more than I can understand (Psalm 139).

3. How I learnt to pray?

Learning to pray, like learning to play an instrument, takes a lot of time and practice and it also requires guidance, support and help from someone else. In the same way, when I came to Christ, the Lord has placed women of God such as my sister and my spiritual mother in my life whose with support and prayers helped me to grow in my faith. Their hunger and thirst for God, their passion for Christ, their zeal for the Word of God and their perseverance in praying inspired and encouraged me to grow in my relationship with Jesus.

They taught me how to read and understand the Bible and I gradually learnt and am still learning that the Bible contains many role models such as Moses, David, Daniel, Hannah, Esther, Paul, Peter, etc. Their relationship with God has been an inspiration to me. However, by reading their life stories I have been learning even the greatest role models had to endure real problems, had their own weaknesses and sins and they didn't always please God like me.

I should also add without the Holy Spirit I do not know how to pray. He is the source of my help as Jesus said in John 14:16: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.

4. Is there anything I miss about Muslim prayer?

I enjoy and feast at the table Jesus, my shepherd has prepared before me and I never miss anything about being constantly hungry during my Muslim life.