

Is it God's desire for us to pray to the Saints?

One of the Roman Catholic practices is to pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus, as well as to various official "Saints".

1. What is a saint?

Romans 1:7

Acts 9:39-41

Revelation **14:12; 20:7-9**

1 Corinthians **1:1-3**

Philippians **4:21-22**

According to the scriptures, a Saint is a person who has placed his trust in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. All believers in Christ are Saints.

2. Are some saints closer to God than to others?

John **3:33-34**

Matthew **20:20-28**

The scriptures never indicate that any one believer is closer to God than any other believer. The only thing we know of is that Jesus sits on the right hand of the Father and that Jesus did not indicate who or if there is any one believer in history who will be His right hand man. There is no reason to suppose that praying to a departed believer has any more or less effect than praying to God directly.

3. Who does Jesus and the Father say we ought to pray to?

Matthew **6:9-13**

Mark **11:22-24**

John **15:16**

Psalm **5:3-4**

Matthew **6:5-8**

John **14:12-18**

John **16:22-28**

Psalm **69:13-16**

The only person scripture ever talks about praying to is God the Father. Jesus does not even ask us to pray to Him. He asks us to pray to the Father in His name, in the name of Jesus. Furthermore, the Old Testament is full of prayers and all of them are made to God.

4. Who hears our prayers?

Jeremiah **7:16; 11:14**

Psalm **65:1-2**

Isaiah **1:15**

Proverbs **15:29**

The only one we are told will hear your prayers is God. There is no indication that those believers who have passed on actually hear our prayers.

Revelation **5:8**

According to Roman Catholic tradition, Revelation 5:8 is proof that the saints in heaven actually do hear the prayers of believers but this passage only indicates that the saints in heaven worship the Lamb of God and that in some way carry the prayers of the saints.