

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 8/18/2023

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

Offering to pray for someone has far more implications than just showing support to another. It says many things about you and what you believe. Thinking about these can help us to be more open to offering prayer when someone expresses the need for help and encouragement beyond what they themselves can accomplish. Here are a few of the things that saying, "I'll pray for you," can convey to others.

First, though, it should be noted that offering to pray for someone else is not trying to force your religion on them. Rather it is providing help to them from the belief system of the religion which you practice. Some people hesitate to offer prayer because they worry that the other person might not be a believer or is a participant in a different belief system, or you just don't know. But, again, just because you are committing to praying to your GOD on their behalf doesn't mean that you will only do it if they are part of your religion, or that you are trying to convert them. It is simply a witness to what you believe and how you can help them from within that framework of faith, whether they adhere to it or not. It says something about you and where you are rather than expressing a conviction about where you think someone else ought to be.

Second, saying, "I'll pray for you," conveys the message that you care for and about this other person. You want what is best for their life and especially, help for the situation about which you are going to pray. It is a wonderful way to share your concern for them and your desire to support and assist them in whatever way you can, particularly when there seems no physical way to help. Saying, "I'll pray for you," says, "I care about you."

Third, offering to pray for someone is a witness to your faith. It is much more than just implying that you believe in GOD. It reveals somethings that you believe about GOD. Praying for another shows that you believe in a GOD who listens to what we have to say and about what we are concerned. In what may seem otherwise hopeless, praying says that you believe that GOD has the power to change what might appear simply unalterable. Praying demonstrates you trust in the power of prayer to change lives for the better and your commitment to asking for that change to happen.

Praying for another is a powerful witness to your faith, especially when that prayer is spoken aloud in their presence. That can be a daunting thought if you don't feel comfortable praying aloud. GOD, though, doesn't care about quality. GOD only cares that we make the effort, as will the person for whom we are praying. Our prayers demonstrate our confidence in the GOD who hears and who sees and who acts for our best interests. Prayer is a gift from GOD to use to bless ourselves and others, and to help us grow in our belief and trust in GOD.

In CHRIST'S love,
Pastor Jeffrey