

TIME FOR GOD

By Rod

This sketch explores the difficulty we all face in finding and spending effective time in prayer with God. The character spends time 'in prayer' but fails either to communicate his true feelings to God or to listen for the answer – as delivered in the verse [Philippians 4 v 6]

CAST

Man

God *Heard at the end over the speaker system*

Man *[Entering and speaking to his wife offstage]* I'm just going to my study for a few minutes – to pray. Yes, yes, I won't forget to put the rubbish out. I'll do it when I've finished. *[Pause as if listening to his wife]* Yes – and I'll put a note out for the milkman.

[Walking over to chair] Ah, peace at last.

[Sits down] I guess I'd better begin by reading a bit of the Bible to help focus my mind.

[Picks up Bible] What shall I read? I don't know. My Bible reading notes are way out of date. I guess I'll just pick something at random.

[Looking at watch] Better make it a single verse as time is pressing. *[Opens Bible and finds a verse by opening and landing finger with eyes shut.]*

Philippians 4 verse 6:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”.

Hmmm, that's a good verse. I do feel stressed at the moment.

Right, time to pray. Where shall I begin?

What was that praying what'sname the preacher mentioned last month? A demonic I think he called it? ACTS – A..C..T..S.

Was it or? Or perhaps it was*(Choose suitable names of local preachers)* I can't remember. Still, I guess it doesn't really matter.

[Remembering] Mnemonic, that was it. Mnemonic. Funny word. Could come in handy in Scrabble.

Now, what do the letters stand for?

A was for asking.

C was for confession.

T was for thanksgiving.

But what was S? Simplification? No, that wasn't it. Supplication. Supplication.
[Puzzled] But that's the same as asking. That doesn't make sense.

[Remembering] Thinking about asking – what was it that Jenny asked me to do? There were two things. One was 'put out the rubbish' but what was the other.
[Anxious] Oh, no, I've forgotten. I'll be in big trouble if I forget. Oh well.....

[Suddenly remembering] Adoration! A is for adoration. It was (*Name of one of earlier preachers*) and he said we should start our prayers by praising God.

[Hesitantly. Talking to God] Right. Hello God. You're great er..... a mighty God. Hallowed be your name.

'Hallowed' – that's a funny word. I can't say I use it very much in everyday speech. *[Laughing to self]* Except when I meet Edward of course 'Hello Ed'
[Laughing at his joke]

[Suddenly remembering] Put a note out for the milkman. That was it. I'd better write those two things down before I forget. *[Finds pen and paper]* Rubbish, milkman.

Now, where was I? I've done A, so it must C – confession. Confession – where do I begin?

[Talking to God] God, I'm really sorry for everything I've done wrong – for shouting at Jenny yesterday evening, and for shouting at the children. And for kicking the cat. And for swearing at that woman driver yesterday.

What is it about driving? Why do I get so worked up and impatient? All my pent up aggression seems to come out when I'm behind the wheel.

And what is it about women drivers? They pootle along in the middle of the road talking 19 to the dozen. They never look in their mirrors – except to check their make-up of course. I don't know

[Waking from reverie] Oh, sorry God, where was I?
T that comes next. Thanksgiving.

[To God] Thank you God for everything. That I've got plenty of food and money. That I've got a lovely home. And for my family; for Jenny and the kids, Max and Jemima. I'm really blessed. Thank you God.

[Telephone rings. Calling to off stage] Will somebody get that, please? I'm busy.

[phone continues to ring. Louder] Will somebody answer the phone?

[phone still rings. Very loud] PHONE!

[phone still rings. Gets up and shouts aggressively offstage] Jenny, Max, Jemima – will one of you answer the blooming telephone. I'm trying to pray.

[Sits down] What a family. They don't give you a moment's peace. You have to do everything yourself.

[phone stops] Halleluiah! Thanks be to God!

[Remembering] Oh yes, thanksgiving. What's next? S for supplication.

[Looks at watch] Oh no, I've got to go or I'll be late for work. And I can't be late today. I'm due to see the boss first thing. I've got to explain how it is that I blew that contract we looked certain to land. *[Anxiously]* Boy am I worried.

[Looks at watch again] No time to pray. I've got more important things to worry about.

[Gets up to go. Leaves stage but rushes back. Picks up note he had written and reads from it] Rubbish, milkman and see the boss to save your job. *[Freezes]*

God “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to Me”.