Prayer In Greek Religion

Simon Pulleyn

Christian prayer, like that of other religions, includes liturgical prayer and personal prayer. Liturgical prayer frames and explains more especially the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist (Lord’s Supper). The liturgical collection, for Sundays as well as other days, includes readings from the Bible, collects (brief prayers including an invocation, petition, and conclusion in which the name of Jesus is called upon), and a litany (general prayer) for the intentions of the universal church. As a religious phenomenon, prayer in terms of its evolution appears to be neither universally progressive nor progressively regressive. Prayer is an invocation or act that seeks to activate a rapport with an object of worship through deliberate communication. In the narrow sense, the term refers to an act of supplication or intercession directed towards a deity (a god), or a deified ancestor. More generally, prayer can also have the purpose of thanking or praise, and in comparative religion is closely associated with more abstract forms of meditation and with charms or spells. Pray (4336) (proseuchomai from pros = toward, facing, before [emphasizing the direct approach of the one who prays in seeking God’s face] + euchomai = originally to speak out, utter aloud, express a wish, then to pray or to vow. Greek technical term for invoking a deity) in the NT is always used of prayer addressed to God (to Him as the object of faith and the One who will answer one’s prayer) and means to speak consciously (with or without vocalization) to Him, with a definite aim. Proseuchomai encompasses all the aspects of prayer -- submission, confession, petition, supplication (may concer
In this, the first book-length study of Greek prayer to appear in English, Simon Pulleyn presents a comprehensive treatment of an aspect of religion which together with sacrifice was at the centre of Greek cult. Through a full examination of all the relevant literary and epigraphic material available from the archaic and classical periods, Pulleyn seeks both to describe the ancient practices and explain their significance. Great stress is laid on the central role of reciprocity in Greek relations with the gods, and the various ways in which they addressed the gods are shown to be related to st Prayer is an invocation or act that seeks to activate a rapport with an object of worship through deliberate communication. In the narrow sense, the term refers to an act of supplication or intercession directed towards a deity (a god), or a deified ancestor. More generally, prayer can also have the purpose of thanksgiving or praise, and in comparative religion is closely associated with more abstract forms of meditation and with charms or spells. Read the full-text online edition of Prayer in Greek Religion (1997). This study presents a comprehensive treatment of a crucial aspect of Greek religion hitherto largely neglected in the English language. Pulleyn draws on all of the relevant literary and epigraphic material available in order both to describe ancient Greek practices and to explain their significance. SUBSCRIBE TODAY! Full access to this book and over 94,000 more.