

Pray early, pray often

One common (and illegal) way political machines from decades ago attempted to win elections was to have voters “vote early and vote often.” This is one way to win an election! Faith happens to be a different story. We can pray early and pray often. In fact, we should do so. Praying is really just talking to God. It isn’t a onetime expression of support. (Or a onetime request for forgiveness). Prayer is our ongoing, constant conversation with God. Prayer can be formal and lengthy. It can also be very informal and brief. It can be ritualistic. It can be unconventional. Prayer can really be whatever we want it to be, provided that we are engaging in a dialogue with God. By expanding how we view prayer, we can expand our conversation with God. Setting aside 30 minutes a day to reserve for prayer isn’t the only way to pray. It would be great if we were all disciplined enough to make this happen. There is certainly nothing wrong with setting this as a goal! We should try to find that 30 minutes! However, whether we carve out a block of time or not, God prefers that we talk to him every day, in every way. This may be spontaneously thanking him for a blessing. It may be asking him to be with a situation. It may also be glorifying him by how we live our lives. The point is that by praying early and praying often, we can live lives of faith by constantly conversing with God. By doing this, we won’t (necessarily) be expressing our preference on Election Day. Rather, we will be engaging in a dialogue with God about his purposes in this world and his promises for the next.