

Why do I pray?

My heart
has heard God say,
“Come and talk with me.”
And my heart responds,
“Lord, I am coming.”

Psalm 27:8

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Rise of the Mighty: A Study of the Book of Acts

Believe & Obey: A Study of the Book of Roman

Prayer & Me

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By Susan McGeown

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What I Want To Learn About Prayer

I asked for people to submit questions to guide me in the direction to which I was going to go for this study. Below are the excellent questions I received and what I had in mind as I put together this book.

Prayer In General

1. What does it do? What's in it for me, both now and eventually?
2. What does it do for those I pray for?
3. Is it really just an empty activity of words and thoughts to someone, something that I can't touch or see?

Prayer and Doing It The Right Way

4. What can/should spur me to pray? Or should I plan a time to do it?
5. Types of prayer...Group, individual, family, friends, grace before meals, prayer to start a meeting. Why, how do they work for a participant(s)? Methods...Silent, vocal, written word, sung, responsorial, spur of the moment, planned and/or repetitive....Places...Church, car, home, restaurant, on the street, in a doc's office, bedside. What types/methods/places result in the most positive feeling at the moment/long term? Is that the point? Or should something else be the "result?"
6. I want to know how to pray the CORRECT way. I want to claim the promises of God according to the Bible. I want

Prayer & Me

His will revealed to me. I want the same kind of power that is described in the New Testament available to me so that I can face all challenges that life throws at me.

7. Am I praying correctly? (“Be careful what you pray for, because you may just get it.”)
8. We’re supposed to pray constantly. If I don’t pray for a day, will He stop answering my prayers?
9. Conversation in prayer by stating what we are going through and asking for guidance as well as expressing gratitude and continued blessings seems about right. Are we supposed to pray about the same things every day?
10. Sometimes “blessed” or “fortunate” people don't really have empathy for others going through troubling times. Maybe they feel they're blessed due to something they're doing "right" that others aren't doing. They won't know 'til things happen to them; although I would never, never wish anything bad on anyone. On the other hand, some people appear so faith-based that bad things don't seem to phase them; they concentrate on their many blessings instead. The Bible says something about not worrying. So how do we not sound desperate and redundant, and do prayers really matter?
11. I say a very long prayer every night, basically the same one. Does God want me to shorten it on those nights I am very tired and just going through the words? Is less, more?
12. Will the Lord's Prayer plus the names of folks who need healing and the regions that need peace suffice? Or does God want details? I do talk to Him all day but the formal prayer is at night.

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Prayer, God's Will & Me

13. How do I accept results that were not what I had hoped/prayed for? More prayer?
14. I want to learn about effective prayer. I don't mean how to get what I want, more like how to be what HE wants!
15. Praying for "God's Will" seems so simple and generic. Also scary. What if God's will isn't what we had in mind?
16. I'm sometimes tired, frustrated and feel I don't know how to pray anymore. How do we pray "right" and accept outcomes that are hurtful?
17. Is there supposed to be a silver lining from life's hurt down the road or we're supposed to learn a lesson?
18. I had someone say to me once that no praying will help, because God has it all planned out ahead of time. Are prayers ever really answered, or is everything that happens God's will?

Prayer and When Tragedy Strikes

19. I don't believe there are certain "good" people on which tragedy doesn't befall. We are all subject to it, some more than others due to chosen actions, but sometimes it seems like "how could God have let this happen?"
20. People that have been fortunate thus far are grateful and feel blessed. But what happens when things fall apart? Do they suddenly begin searching for answers as to what could possibly have caused this to happen to a prayerful, good person?

1. Prayer & God

Fact #1. God's ways are perfect. God cannot make mistakes. God is all knowing, all powerful, and has no beginning and no end.

Based on this:

- a. The ultimate authority in my life must be God's eternity.
- b. I must operate by God's timeline.
- a. The laws of genetics should only be disbanded according to God's timeline.
- b. I should want God to fulfill only the prayers that He thinks are best.

Fact #2: God desires a personal relationship with each one of us. Because God is not hindered by time, God can be with each one of us at all times. The best way for me to communicate with God is through prayer.

Based on this:

- a. My purpose for praying should be to establish a close personal relationship with God.
- b. My prayers should help me keep on the right track spiritually, make me feel closer to God, help me better understand myself, and help me understand God's will better.
- c. My prayers should resemble a personal conversation with a close, dear, loving friend.
- d. I should expect every single one of my prayers to be answered.

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Fact #3: Our prayers are the only way to communicate with God.

Based on this:

- a. My prayers should be honest, personal, and uniquely me.
- b. I should not compare myself to others.
- c. God welcomes all honest emotion.
- d. I should focus on candid subject matter, authentic expression, and my distinctive style.
- e. I must take responsibility for the quality of my prayer life.
- f. I need to understand what I should and shouldn't pray for.
- g. I should expect my prayers to make a difference.

Fact #4: God wants to hear our prayers.

Remember these biblical truths when you doubt the need and power of prayer:

- a. Jesus prayed continually throughout his time on earth and regularly sought time in prayer for strength, direction, and comfort.
- b. Prayer was regularly the primary communication through which God has communicated wants, needs, and requirements.
- c. Prayer enables us to see the world from a godly rather than human perspective.
- d. Our free will enables us to accept or reject God. In entering into prayer with God we initiate a relationship.

Fact #5: Prayers should never be meant to change God's Mind.

Prayer is meant to change *our* mind,

- a. To understand God's Will.
- b. To help us align ourselves with God's Plans.
- c. To help us discover God's Purpose for our lives.
- d. To help us view others and the world from God's Perspective rather than our own.

Why do I pray?



I pray not to tell God what He needs to know or remind him of things that He has forgotten. I pray because prayer gives me the opportunity to *finally* care about things from the same perspective as God. **Prayer allows me to see others as God sees them.**

2. Prayer, Posture, & Style

Silent vs. Aloud

Praying silently is to praying aloud as private chats are to public speeches.

There is a distinct difference between prayers said aloud for all to hear and personal prayers said quietly, privately (and probably silently) between you and God. You should never, ever compare your personal prayers to anything you hear prayed aloud. It's like comparing apples to oranges; they may be both fruit but they have a whole different taste.

Praying silently to God is a close, intimate conversation. Praying aloud, while it addresses God, also includes the present praying community. Each has their own vital role and performs an important spiritual service.

Praying aloud was distinctly more difficult for me than praying silently and for years it was a painful, heart palpating process when I was faced with it. Practice does help. I was never, ever able to master the fancy prayers you hear ministers do all the time. What I did master was the ability to be comfortable with my own style. If praying aloud is absolutely not for you, then put it aside for now; wrap it up in a nice little bow and store it carefully on a shelf for the time being.

A majority of this study will be regarding silent, personal prayer.

Posture

He'll take you any way He can get you.

Whether you're on your knees or standing in line at the grocery store, God welcomes your prayers. Never doubt that. Yet if prayer is the most important time for you to get to really know God, finding a time, place, and posture where you're comfortable, focused, and uninterrupted would certainly mean that the quality of our prayers certainly varies based on when and where we are. While God welcomes your earnest prayer said quickly as you dash into your important corporate meeting, God also wants some undivided, quality time one on one with you, too. You need to carve out a time in your busy life where not only can you talk at length with God but that you can sit quietly and listen to what He has to tell you, too. You need to make sure that you are having a dialogue with God; not a monologue. However you manage that can be as creative as necessary.

If your prayers are always on the fly, always in the midst of disaster, and always a litany of one-sided requests from you then your relationship with God is nowhere near as close and as vital as it should be. Think about your friendships. What friend do you rely on, trust, and love the most? Is it the one who only calls you when she needs an emergency babysitter or when she's got just two minutes to send you a brief text or email? Or is it the friend who knows by the sound of your voice that you're upset, who you've shared endless laughter and tears with, and who you require hours to catch up with when you finally get time to talk?

Style

Consistency is far more important than style.

Did you know that there are all kinds of prayer? You'll probably be surprised at how many you have already done. Here's a brief list; there are certainly others but I have chosen just the most common. (I talk a bit more and provide scriptural support for each of these styles in the section entitled "Types of Prayers"):

- **Supplication Prayers** involve making a conscious decision to pray about something instead of worry about something. You give all your fear, anxiety, and impatience to God.
- **Believing Prayers** constantly look for God to do the impossible, extraordinary, and unbelievable in your life.
- **Revealing Prayers** involve asking God to help you understand something. Rather than trying to convince God of something; you ask God to clarify things for you.
- **Interceding Prayers** are specific requests for those in need. You pray fervently for someone but trust God for the results.
- **Corporate Prayers** are prayers done with others.
- **Persevering Prayers** are prayers that you say continually and involve patience, faith, and waiting.
- **Thanksgiving/Worship Prayers** are prayers that express thanks for all that God has done.
- **Consecration Prayers** are prayers where you are set apart from others and determine to follow God's will.

How many of these types of prayers have you done over the course of your life?

Prayer & Me

Always remember this important fact with regard to prayer: *How* you do it: aloud, silent, sitting, kneeling, or riding on the train isn't nearly as important as *the way* you do it: with an earnest desire to share as well as to listen.

Why do I pray?



I pray because I believe it is the very best way to get to know God better. I find it astonishing that **the God of the Universe desires a relationship with me ... how cool is that?**

3. Prayer & The Proper Attitude

Is there a right way and a wrong way to pray?

It all depends on the attitude.

The quick answer to that question is yes and no. God doesn't really care about your articulating prowess. He doesn't need you to sound a certain way or use a certain set of words. But God absolutely cares about what attitude you have when you enter into prayer. It's not as easy as you think, but it's also not that difficult. *Prayer requires thought.*

- **FORGIVENESS:** We can't ask to be forgiven of something we've done wrong if we have refused to forgive someone else of a wrong doing. (Matthew 6:14-15 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.)
- **HATRED & REVENGE:** We can't enter into prayer with an attitude of hatred or revenge. We're supposed to pray for our enemies (and love them, too). (Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he

Prayer & Me

sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- **VAIN REPETITION:** We're not supposed to just use vain repetition that is meaningless to us. (Matthew 6:7-8 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.)
- **STATUS:** We're not supposed to pray just for recognition. (Matthew 6:5 When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.)
- **RESPECT:** We shouldn't be irreverent or disrespectful. Even Jesus addressed God as "Holy Father" and "Righteous Father" in his prayers.
- **BELIEF:** We must work to come with an attitude of belief and faith. (Matthew 21:22 You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.)
- **SUBMISSION:** We must make sure that our attitude is of submission. We cannot demand things from God but rather through humble requests. Once again, even Jesus exhibited this. (Matthew 26:29 My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.)
- **GOD'S GREATER GLORY:** All we ask must be for the greater glory of God. There is no room for a selfish attitude in prayer. Jesus prayed not for his own comfort

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and well-being but for the glory of His father. (John 17:9 My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.)

- **CONFIDENCE:** We are to pray with confidence. (I John 5:14-15 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.)
- **PERSISTENCE:** We are to pray persistently. (Matthew 7:7-8 Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.)
- **OBEDIENCE:** We must always strive for obedience. (I John 3:22 And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.)
- **THANKSGIVING:** We must make our request with thanksgiving. (Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.)

Prayer & God

Prayer, Posture, & Style

Prayer & the Proper Attitude

4. Prayer & Forgiveness

Forgiveness is mentioned in the previous section regarding the proper attitude in prayer but it is such an important aspect of prayer that I felt it deserved its own section. The Bible is very definitive on forgiveness and our responsibility towards it: “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

But forgiveness is easier said than done, isn't it? I thought it important to give a few critical facts regarding forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness is an act of will not a feeling. It is a sign of strength not a show of weakness.
2. Forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same thing. Forgiveness only needs one person; reconciliation needs two.
3. Forgiveness is not a natural response but a supernatural response empowered by God.
4. Forgiveness is not based on what is fair but what is right and obedient to do.
5. Forgiveness is not based on waiting for time to heal wounds. Some wounds never heal.
6. Forgiveness is not ignoring hurt and anger but giving the hurt and anger to God.

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7. Forgiveness is not forgetting but not keeping any active record of unjust behavior.
8. Forgiveness is not excusing or cancelling of consequences but merely allowing God to handle things in God's own way.
9. Forgiveness can be one of the most powerful points of witness for nonbelievers.
10. Forgiveness is a duty for all believers. (Luke 6:37 Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.)
11. Forgiveness is the ultimate expression of godly love. God loves us and has enabled our sins to be forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We must do the same. (Jeremiah 31:34b I will forgive their wickedness and I will never again remember their sins.)

Why do I pray?

Prayer
invites God
into my
world and
ushers me
into God's.



Prayer & God

Prayer, Posture, & Style

Prayer & the Proper Attitude

Prayer & Forgiveness

5. Prayer & The Right Kind of Requests

The Asking Attitude

Surely, indeed, truly, please allow this to be so.

The Lord's Prayer that Jesus prayed was meant to be a *pattern* as to how we pray not a chant. Each part of the prayer teaches us something about God, prayer, and our needs. Jesus didn't intend for us to recite it as if it were a magical incantation that would force God to do what we want Him to do and it should *never* be repeated mechanically, without thought; its purpose is to stimulate and awaken our faith. In it, Jesus prayed:

1. **To Acknowledge** the might and power of God as well as our humble place. We should approach God as a respectful child approaches his father with humility and love. (Our Father ...)
2. **To Honor** the supremacy of God. We are literally asking God to show us how holy, perfect and different from us He is. (Hallowed by ...)
3. **To Desire** God's plan and purpose to be achieved everywhere. God is the King. His desires (will) is what we are to obey. (Thy Kingdom come ...)

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4. **To Trust** that God will provide everything you need. We do not ask for everything we want; we ask for everything we need. (Give us this day ...)
5. **To Ask** for forgiveness from God in the same way you forgive others on earth. You cannot receive forgiveness if you don't admit that you need it! (And forgive us ...)
6. **To Ask** for strength and wisdom to recognize and resist all evil. We cannot do this on our own. We are fully dependent upon the Holy Spirit who lives in Christians to give us eyes that see the temptation and feet to escape it. (And lead us not...)
7. **To Surrender** yourself to God's Will, God's Direction, and God's Plan for your life. Technically, this wasn't in the Lord's Prayer in Luke's version (2:11-14) or in the earliest versions of Matthew (6:9-13). Taken from I Chronicles 29:11, it was added sometime later (when? Who knows...) and it closes out the prayer and declares God's holiness and sovereignty. (For think is the Kingdom ...)

We all end our prayers with the word "Amen". Do you know what it means? It means any one of these translations:

- Surely/indeed/truly,
- Please allow this to be so, or
- We declare that we truly believe that God has heard everything we have said and that He will do it.

My prayers are often filled with my worries, my needs, and my specific requests. And yet this style of prayer simply reminds us, in each part, of God's might, power, love, patience, and grace.

Prayer & Me

Rather than praying from our *lack* and *need* through our human existence, Jesus instead showed that we are to pray from our *power* and our *blessings* through God's love and grace. How often are your prayers in this style?

I like the way Philip Yancey in his book, Prayer: Does It Make A Difference "rewrote" the Lord's Prayer:

Dearest Lord:

Remind me today that You live and reign, not in heaven only but all around me and in my life.

May I "hallow" what lies before me, by consciously referring it to You, and also honor Your perfection, Your holiness, by seeking to become more like You.

May people believe in Your reign of goodness because of how I live today.

May I trust You for what I need today, nourishment for both body and soul, and not worry about future needs and wants.

Grant me to the same attitude of forgiving grace toward those who owe me, and who have wronged me, that You show toward me.

Let me not slide mindlessly toward evil today. Make me alert to its temptations and strong to resist it, with neither fear nor regret.

Please allow this to be so.

Our requests should always be to God's ultimate glory, our needs should always be for the accomplishment of God's perfect plan, our confidence should always rest on God's boundless love, and

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the answers to our prayers should always be defined by God's faultless wisdom.

The Answering Attitude

There are three ways that God answers prayers: Yes, No, and Not Now.

Do you believe that God answers all prayers? From my way of thinking, prayers said by a believer. I John 5:14-15 states, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." Prayers asked with the right attitude most certainly are answered because Jesus repeatedly promised that they would be:

- Matthew 7:7
- Matthew 18:19
- Matthew 21:22
- Mark 11:24
- Luke 11:13
- John 14:13-14
- John 16:23

Yet many regularly struggle with [what they believe to be] unanswered prayer requests. When we are faced with this situation, we must remember these things:

- God in His infinite wisdom knows what is best. We should never want something different than what God wants. Always remember that God can see all; not just the limited scope of we see.

Prayer & Me

- God is His infinite existence does not work within our timeframe; His timeframe is perfect. Patience is one of the most difficult skills a person can learn. Regarding God's timing, it is always worth the wait.
- This earthly life is not the ultimate goal and never should be. Our perspective must always be heavenward not earthbound.
- God is like the perfect parent wanting only the best for us but allowing to make our own choices and decisions *and mistakes*. It's called free will. Our ability to listen to God – or not – is a privilege only humans and angels have and with that privilege comes the burden of consequences as well.

Why do I pray?



I pray because it's a way of saying, "**God show me what you are doing today and how I can be a part of it.**" I certainly have nothing better to do than to put myself in the stream of God's healing work on earth.

Prayer & God

Prayer, Posture, & Style

Prayer & the Proper Attitude

Prayer & Forgiveness

Prayer & The Right Kind of Requests

6. Prayer & My Shortcomings

My Failures

I have all these good intentions and yet I still keep getting it wrong.

If I get discouraged with myself, how must God feel about me? Paul knew exactly how you felt and wrote about it in Romans 7:18-24: “I want to do what is right, but I can’t. I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am!”

The great King David was another believer who regularly failed and sinned yet God called him in I Samuel 13:14 “a man after God’s own heart”. God *knows* our weaknesses and our struggles

Prayer & Me

and this is where the *relationship* with God is so important. God didn't call David a man after his own heart because David got it right all the time; God called David a man after his own heart because David *never gave up trying to get it right* and *never gave up asking for forgiveness*.

Our relationship with God through our prayers – where we are honest with our emotions and our struggles in which we succeed *and fail* if the most loving, most forgiving, most empowering relationship we could ever hope to find in our lives.

My Poor Attitude

I can't always manage a good prayer attitude. Should I just not bother praying?

Okay, I'm completely intimidated now, regarding prayer. I'll never get the right attitude. I'll never be able to manage the right kind of request. Plus, already God knows what's in my heart. He's got to know that I'm ... miserably, hopelessly only human.

That's when the Holy Spirit comes in. The Holy Spirit comforts us, guides us, protects us, and *interprets our prayer requests* directly to God. Paul wrote about it in Romans 8:26-27, "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." In other words, we do *our level best* and even when that's lacking, God's provided us with the Holy Spirit to make sure everything is appropriate.

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When we just can't manage the proper attitudes and words for God in prayer, perhaps that is the perfect time to simply bow our heads, quiet our thoughts, and just strive to listen to God's comforting words and presence.

My Doubts & Fears

Maybe I shouldn't say this but what if God's Will isn't what I want?

I wish I could be the wonderful, wise Christian who never worries, never doubts, and always faces every crisis with confidence knowing that God Is In Control Of Everything. But I'm not perfect and mess up all the time and that's just the reality of who I am. Even praying for God's Will can be terrifying for me because it might be so very far from where I am and where I think I need to be.

How do you view God? Is God an avenging being sitting up in heaven waiting to throw a thunderbolt at you when you get things wrong? Is [your impression of] God's primary purpose to love or to punish us? Encourage or to control us? Guide or to force us? God's primary emotion is love. I John 4:8 says, "But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." And not only does God love, God loves *unconditionally*. Paul describes the kind of love that God has this way in I Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

Prayer & Me

A God who loves like that only wants the best for you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Don't you want to jump on the boat and never get off?

Our faith journey is something that changes (and hopefully grows) daily. The Bible likens us to starting out as babies capable of only consuming baby food and we are charged with eventually working our way up to meals of steak and wine. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 3:1-2, "Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger." Jesus said it a different way in Luke 16:10, "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones." Both passages seek to get you to understand a critical fact about faith: it's got to be ever-present in *all areas of your life* for you to reap those wonderfully promised rewards. Practice makes perfect is applicable to your prayer life: the more you do it, the more capable you become. If your prayer life only roars to life when crises hit, you will never receive the full benefit of a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

How do you envision God? What kind of friendship do you have with God? Are you just a fat baby? How are you with the little things in your life will directly impact how you are with the big things in your life.

Prayer & God

Prayer, Posture, & Style

Prayer & the Proper Attitude

Prayer & Forgiveness

Prayer & The Right Kind of Requests

Prayer & My Shortcomings

7. Prayer & God's Will

Why Bother?

God knows how everything will happen, why does He need me to pray about it?

It's a good question and if we asked a hundred people we'd probably get a hundred different answers. Here are a few good reasons why:

1. **Because we are told to.** Jeremiah 42:3 Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do. Luke 18:1 One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.
2. **Because Jesus did.** If it's good enough for Jesus it must certainly be good enough for us.
3. **Because it is the best way to know God's Will and gain spiritual wisdom.** Colossians 1:9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Prayer & Me

4. **Because it changes me in a good way.** Prayer doesn't change things it changes us and then we change things around us. Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Hasn't God Already Decided?

What difference can my prayers make?

God has *always* operated in tangent with humans. Adam in the garden; Noah and the flood, Deborah and Barak, Mary and Joseph ... Each of us have a purpose; each of us are called to further God's kingdom on earth. God *works* with humans and our prayers enable us to become a part of God's plan on earth. James 5:16b states, "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." That sounds like a difference to me.

The important thing to remember is that we are not praying to change God's mind or inform God of something He may know or not know. We are praying so that we can become a part of God's changing power on earth and when that happens *we're changing* in a good way.

Trust

A key component of belief is trust.

Where are you headed? What is your ultimate goal in life? What is your 'final reward'? Do you believe in heaven? If you do, are you confident you're going to heaven? You should have answers for these questions. Jesus said, "For God loved the world so much

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that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”

Do you believe that God loves us, cares for us, and only wants the best for us? Do you believe these following verses?

- Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- Psalm 115:12 The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us.
- Matthew 10:30-31 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.
- Psalm 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.
- Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord you God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Your level of trust in God’s promises will directly impact how you view a life dictated by God’s Will ... or not. *It is essential that you decide*; not making a firm decision *is* a decision. Regarding indecision regarding belief or not the Bible says, “Since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!” (Revelations 3:16)

A key component of belief is trust in God’s promises and this will directly impact your prayer life attitude ... and success.

Prayer & God

Prayer, Posture, & Style

Prayer & the Proper Attitude

Prayer & Forgiveness

Prayer & The Right Kind of Requests

Prayer & My Shortcomings

Prayer & God's Will

8. Prayer & Power

Miracles

Any limitations come only from our side.

The definition of coincidence is a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent causal connection. The definition of miracle is a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency. Personally, I don't think there is such a thing as coincidence. If God is involved in all aspects of our lives than that must mean that nothing is left to chance but instead left to our obedience to God's direction and the consequences of those decisions. I love the saying "coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." Limitations we place on the scope and magnitude of our prayers come only from us.

Ephesians 1:19-20 tells us, "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead

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and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."

On the flip side, please remember that any miracle recorded in the Bible as well as any miracle that has occurred since has always and only been expressly for God's great glory and the furtherance of His plan here on earth. After all, that's what this life is all about.

Personal Strength & Confidence

When we pray, God works.

Prayers have a tremendous impact, particularly on a believer's faith and life.

- **Prayer gives access to power** that will help stand the test of all manner of storms. (Psalm 50:15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.)
- **Prayer helps us stand against temptations** that we face daily. (Matthew 26:41: Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.)
- **Prayer brings about positive godly changes** to the lives of those around us. (I Timothy 2:1-4 I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.)

Defense & Care

I have had hard times in my life, time of fear and hurt, anger and despair. I don't think there is anyone who hasn't had difficulties in life. In fact, the older I get the more I realize that traveling from one hardship to the other is essentially the reality of the human existence.

God knows this. I believe that this was part of God's grief and anger when sin first entered into the world; God knew how tough it was going to be for us. The power of prayer is God's defensive shield for us. Prayer is Satan's kryptonite and our secret weapon. Believe in the power of prayer and trusting in God's promises of care for us are all we need to do.

Here are just a few verses that talk God's care for us; He is only just a prayer away.

- Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. Jeremiah 33:3
- Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10
- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1
- The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:18
- Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies and your right hand delivers me.

Prayer & God

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Prayer & Forgiveness

Prayer & The Right Kind of Requests

Prayer & My Shortcomings

Prayer & God's Will

Prayer & Power

9. Prayer & Hardships

“Everything to work together for good...”

We cannot stand in the shoes of God and give a complete answer to questions that ask “Why?” regarding tragedies and unanswered prayers. We don’t have God’s mind and don’t see with God’s eyes. We simply cannot understand everything with a finite perspective. Even the Bible speaks of this in I Corinthians 13:12, “Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.” Trying to understand why there is suffering and tragedy in our lives and in our world is just something that we cannot do at this time. What we must remember is this world is not perfect, our bodies are not perfect, and we are not perfect. Imperfection – evil – is in our world and where sorrow and tragedy comes from.

Prayer & Me

But we can know that God's ultimate emotion is love; it is the highest value in the universe.

Free will was a gift given to humans (and the angels); the ability to choose to love or not to love. With free will comes the ability to reject God. The opposite of God's goodness is evil. Much of the world's suffering results from the sinful action or inaction of ourselves and others. Your hand can be used for goodness or for evil; it's our choice. God didn't create evil but He did allow the potential for evil so that we could have the opportunity for goodness and love. It's a little like choosing to become parents; many of us choose to do it simply because of the potential for joy even though the potential for heartache is always there, too.

No one has a charmed life. No. One. We all endure our own sorrows. There is a promise that is very important to me, especially during times of hardship and grief. I have clung to it through the worst times of my life. It says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Romans 8:28) That promise that even in the darkest moments of life God promises to work for the good means more to me than I can adequately express. It means that nothing is out of God's realm of care or concern for me and that I am never alone.

Prayer & God

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10. Prayer & Me

Many of us pray as often as we can – in the car, in line at the grocery, and while having a difficult conversation with a loved one. That is wonderful and just what we are called to do. Yet we should have formal, focused prayer time in our lives and this is what I will address now.

Time & Location

Commit to finding a consistent place and time that is free from distractions; no phone, no television, no kids. Maybe it's your commute to work, or your workout time on the treadmill, or first thing in the morning. It's got to be something that works *for you*. Ask your friends what they do; maybe they'll have good suggestions.

Dialogue

Begin your conversation with God. Don't worry about posture or words or what style of prayer you're doing. Say it quietly or out loud with your eyes closed or open. *Just begin.*

- Start with things you're thankful for in your life. Can you name a new one each day? Think of your life, your circumstances, your job, your family, your friends, the world around you ... "Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow." (James 1:17) These are blessings in your life. Have you ever formally thanked God for them?
- Apologize for all the times you have let God down whether through disobedience, inaction, misbehavior or ignorance. Ask Him to forgive you for all your sins and ask Him to help you become stronger, better, and wiser next time.
- Tell God your worries, your fears, and your struggles. Ask for insight, help, and solutions. Ask God to show you His Will for all the things that you are stressing about. I always pray for Big Black Arrows under the theory that I'm rather clueless and preoccupied much of the time so if God would just paint Big Black Arrows on the ground I'll be happy to follow them.
- Ask God what He needs for you to do. Tell Him you are His and willing to do whatever He needs you to do. Give yourself some quiet moments where you just let God speak to you. Do you think of someone you feel you should reach out to? Someone you need to forgive? Someone you need to reconnect with? Something someone has asked you to do that you originally declined? Someone who needs your assistance?

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Prayer is a personal exercise and I do not want to give you so many specifics that your prayers become mine. However these are a few things that I do that I find great satisfaction in doing:

- I like to write in a journal and keep track of my praises and my prayer requests. It is fun to see how often my prayer requests become my praises. It is amazing to me to watch how God solves what seem to be my biggest problem in simple, unique, (sometimes humorous) ways.
- I sometimes use my prayer time to memorize scripture and there are times when I just say aloud what I have memorized instead of any other kind of praying. It can be a very emotional, powerful time!
- I sometimes wear a special bracelet or ring to help me remember to pray for a particular person. When I see it on my hand, it reminds me to say a quick prayer.
- I try to connect (call or email) with people that come to my mind during my prayers. I can't tell you how often that person is absolutely shocked that I called and said, "You came to my mind when I was praying today and I just wanted to know how you're doing." Often they are in crisis or need or just lonely and my connection was exactly what they needed.
- I have a collection of close spiritual friends that I call on when I need prayer for myself (and vice versa). When I start to really struggle (can't sleep, can't focus) because of worry that's my clue that I need others praying for me and my issues besides just myself. I can't tell you how many times I immediately feel better for doing this.
- I have a collection of close spiritual friends who know my deepest, darkest struggles and who pray for me regularly and I them.

Prayer & Me

- I am on the church prayer chain and get notification via email of praises and prayer requests. It keeps me connected to the church body and also allows me another place to request prayer for myself and my loved ones.

Do you have spiritual friends? Ask them how they approach prayer. What works for them and what doesn't? What suggestions do they have? How has prayer helped them? Sharing stories, techniques, successes and failures are all opportunities for growth and improvement in our prayer lives.

Listen & Obey

Coincidence has no place in your prayer life.

When you pray and something happens or someone speaks to you about exactly the issue that you were praying about or the minister preaches a sermon on exactly the topic you're struggling with or someone offers you a solutions out of the clear blue never, *ever* attribute that to anything other than God's mighty power at work. Remember there are others out there praying for the Lord's Guidance, asking to be shown the Lord's Will and striving to do the thing that God is telling them; that's how God works!!

Why do I pray?

Evidently,
God likes
to be
asked.



Prayer & God

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Prayer & Power

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Prayer & Me

11. Prayer & Others

I once had a boyfriend turn to me in the middle of the Superbowl and scream, "PRAY THAT THE GIANTS WIN!! HURRY!!!" Now I guess I could be pleased that 1.) He appreciated that I was a woman of prayer and 2.) He recognized the power and speed of prayers but at that moment in time I was horrified at his request. I'm fairly certain that sport and lottery wins are ranked rather low on quality prayers.

I have sobbed broken heartedly over a lost love and agonized over health issues of family and friends and even then I've always been careful of how I say my prayers. You see, I never, ever want to usurp God's Will or God's Plans for my life or any other person's

Prayer & Me

life. When times are trying I always pray for wisdom, peace, guidance, strength, and comfort for all involved.

I remember when I was first married and the possibility of my husband being transferred loomed over my head. I panicked not wanting to leave my parents, my friends, my family, my church ... My roots when very deep. My husband got upset, too, knowing how unhappy I was about the potential relocation. That made me realize that in addition to not wanting to move, I also didn't want to hinder my husband's progress in life either. What if this new job opportunity was God's will?

So I prayed, but I didn't ask to stay and I also didn't ask to go. I just remember praying tearfully, "Help!!" because I literally didn't know what else to do. And then I had an epiphany. It was bright and clear and so powerful that I immediately felt calm. I realized that I trusted God and believed that He only wanted what was the best for me. My life was proof of that so far wasn't it? And God would never move me to a place that was *less* than what I already had so then that would have to mean that wherever God would send me than it had to be as good or better than what I already had! Suddenly, I was peaceful and calm ... and even a tiny bit excited ... about the move. In the end, we never moved but I never forgot that blessed experience: the reality of God's love and care for me and mine.

My parents taught me how to pray like this and modeled it through the death of their child from a genetic illness. I remember sitting in church while the minister prayed for a miracle and wondering why God wasn't answering that prayer. My mom told me that she, too, prayed for healing but at some point in her prayers she 'just knew' that my sister was not going

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to be healed. Instead of giving up, Mom began to pray for time. The last five years of my sister's life my mother called her 'years of grace.' My sister died just before she turned twelve.

My point of this chapter is to encourage you to see God's Will in every aspect of your life, not just your own. Remember that in your prayer requests for others and trust that God is in control of it all.

Why do I pray?



I pray to give an opportunity for God to say, "yes", "no", or "not right now." God is not really silent, we are deaf. **Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers, you know.**

The Lord's Prayer Piece By Piece

Facts:

- The Lord's Prayer is recorded in both Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. Matthew's account comes during the Sermon on the Mount and is told in connection with criticism of the flamboyant prayers of hypocrites and heathens. Luke's account is given in response to a request from one of Jesus' disciples, "Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." It is quite possible that these are two separate incidents.
- Jesus was a man of prayer praying in private, in public, and on occasion spending whole nights in prayer.
- Jesus often spoke to His disciples on the subject of prayer and cautioned them against doing it for show.
- Regarding prayer, Jesus urged perseverance, faith, and large expectations.
- There are petitions or requests in this prayer. Some are directed toward God and His great purposes while others are directed toward our condition and wants.
- The opening expression, "Our Father" is particularly important as up until this point (throughout the Old Testament) God as Father was perceived as a to the nation as a whole. In Jesus' prayer, "Our Father" is personal and it is the first time where God is encouraged to be "our" individual Father in a close and personal sense.
- It was meant to be a lesson in prayer – a simple model to be followed. It surpassed all previous conceptions of how

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to pray to God and showed that a child of God could come in a simple direct manner to address our heavenly Father. For the new believer it provides a simple, instructive prayer. For the mature disciple it takes a lifetime to fully grasp the meaning and intent.

- The final lines of the prayer, known as the doxology (“For thine is the kingdom...”) is not contained in Luke’s version and is not in the earliest manuscripts of Matthew and most scholars do not consider it part of the original manuscript. The doxology has similarities to I Chronicles 29:11. Most Catholics do not include the doxology in the prayer while most Protestants do.

WHAT	Acknowledgement
King James Version	OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN
New Living Translation	Our Father in heaven
The Message	Our Father in heaven,
Translation from the Aramaic	Our heavenly Father, hallowed is your name.

Remind me today that you live and reign, not in heaven only but all around me and in my life. (Yancey, 171)

WHAT	The First Request: Universal Needs
King James Version	HALLOWED BE THY NAME
New Living Translation	may your name be honored.
The Message	Reveal who you are.
Translation from the Aramaic	Your Kingdom is come.

May I “hallow” what lies before me, by consciously referring it to you, and also honor your perfection, your holiness, by seeking to become more like you. (Yancey, 172)

Prayer & Me

WHAT	The Second Request: Earthly Needs
King James Version	THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
New Living Translation	May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.
The Message	Set the world right; Do what's best— as above, so below.
Translation from the Aramaic	Your will is done, As in heaven so also on earth.

May people believe in your reign of goodness because of how I live today. (Yancey, 172)

WHAT	The Third Request: Personal Needs
King James Version	GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD
New Living Translation	Give us our food for today,
The Message	Keep us alive with three square meals.
Translation from the Aramaic	Give us the bread for our daily need.

May I trust you for what I need today, nourishment for both body and soul, and not worry about future needs and wants. (Yancey, 172)

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WHAT	The Fourth Request: Spiritual Needs
King James Version	AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
New Living Translation	and forgive us our sins,
The Message	Keep us forgiven with you.
Translation from the Aramaic	And leave us serene,
WHAT	The Fifth Request: Worldly Needs
King James Version	AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.
New Living Translation	just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.
The Message	and forgiving others
Translation from the Aramaic	just as we also allowed others serenity.

Grant me to the same attitude of forgiving grace toward those who owe me, and who have wronged me, that you show toward me. (Yancey, 172)

WHAT	The Sixth Request: Individual Needs
King James Version	AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
New Living Translation	And don't let us yield to temptation
The Message	Keep us safe from ourselves
Translation from the Aramaic	And do not pass us through trial,

Let me not slide mindlessly toward evil today. Make me alert to its temptations and strong to resist it, with neither fear nor regret. (Yancey, 172)

Prayer & Me

WHAT	The Eighth Request: Admiration Needs
King James Version	FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER
New Living Translation	For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
The Message	You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty!
Translation from the Aramaic	For yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory To the end of the universe, of all the universes."

WHAT	Affirmation
King James Version	AMEN
New Living Translation	Amen.
The Message	Yes. Yes. Yes.
Translation from the Aramaic	Yes, yes it will happen this way

Why do I pray?

Prayer allows me to see others as God sees them (and me): as uniquely flawed and uniquely gifted bearers of God's image.



Examples of Biblical Prayer

Every human emotion and experience surges to the surface in the prayer-poems of Psalms. (Yancey, 172) I learned from Psalms to converse with God as I would converse with my employer, my friend, my wife – in short, to treat God as a Person in every sense of the world. (Yancey, 176)

From Paul’s prayers I learn to dethrone myself by first considering a cosmic point of view and then looking at my friends and family, my life, the church, and indeed all history from that vantage. (Yancey, 177)

From other prayers in the Bible I learned that it was not that the liturgy should express what they feel, but that they should learn to feel what the liturgy expressed. (Yancey, 179)

Hezekiah’s Prayer On His Deathbed

Isaiah 38:2-8

² When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, ³ “Remember, O LORD, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you.” Then he broke down and wept bitterly.

⁴ Then this message came to Isaiah from the LORD: ⁵ “Go back to Hezekiah and tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will add fifteen years to your life, ⁶ and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. Yes, I will defend this city.

Prayer & Me

⁷“And this is the sign from the LORD to prove that he will do as he promised: ⁸I will cause the sun’s shadow to move ten steps backward on the sundial of Ahaz!” So the shadow on the sundial moved backward ten steps.

Why do I pray?

I pray in
astonished
belief that God
desires an
ongoing
relationship
with me.



Daniel’s Prayer of Confession

Daniel 9:3-19

³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes.

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

“O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. ⁵ But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. ⁶ We have refused to listen to your

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servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.

⁷ “Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. ⁹ But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. ¹⁰ We have not obeyed the LORD our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice.

“So now the solemn curses and judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured down on us because of our sin. ¹² You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned. Never has there been such a disaster as happened in Jerusalem. ¹³ Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the LORD our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth. ¹⁴ Therefore, the LORD has brought upon us the disaster he prepared. The LORD our God was right to do all of these things, for we did not obey him.

¹⁵ “O Lord our God, you brought lasting honor to your name by rescuing your people from Egypt in a great display of power. But we have sinned and are full of wickedness. ¹⁶ In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring

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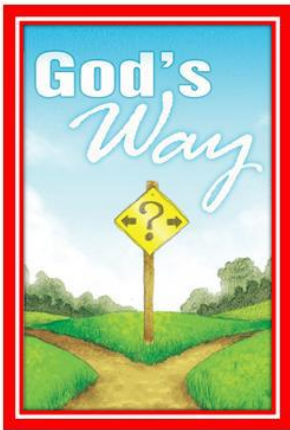
nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors.

¹⁷ “O our God, hear your servant’s prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.

¹⁸ “O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.

¹⁹ “O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name.”

Why do I pray?



I pray always and only for the Lord's Will. I make suggestions and share my desires, but always acknowledge that He Knows Best. Certainly He has to have the best plan for the future and the best solution to any problem. **Wouldn't it be the greatest possible disaster to argue with God and win?**

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Habakkuk's Prayer of Joy

Habakkuk 3:1-19

This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk:

² I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy.

³ I see God moving across the deserts from Edom, the Holy One coming from Mount Paran.¹ His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with his praise.

⁴ His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from his hands, where his awesome power is hidden.

⁵ Pestilence marches before him; plague follows close behind.

⁶ When he stops, the earth shakes. When he looks, the nations tremble. He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills. He is the Eternal One!

⁷ I see the people of Cushan in distress, and the nation of Midian trembling in terror.

⁸ Was it in anger, LORD, that you struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were you displeased with them? No, you were sending your chariots of salvation!

⁹ You brandished your bow and your quiver of arrows. You split open the earth with flowing rivers.

¹⁰ The mountains watched and trembled. Onward swept the raging waters.

The mighty deep cried out, lifting its hands to the LORD.

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¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in the sky as your brilliant arrows flew and your glittering spear flashed.

¹² You marched across the land in anger and trampled the nations in your fury.

¹³ You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones.

You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe.

¹⁴ With his own weapons, you destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey.

¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, and the mighty waters piled high.

¹⁶ I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us.

¹⁷ Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines;

even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

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Jehoshaphat's Prayer for Deliverance

2 Chronicles 20:5-12

⁵ Jehoshaphat stood before the community of Judah and Jerusalem in front of the new courtyard at the Temple of the LORD. ⁶ He prayed, "O LORD, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you! ⁷ O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham? ⁸ Your people settled here and built this Temple to honor your name. ⁹ They said, 'Whenever we are faced with any calamity such as war, ^[a] plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this Temple where your name is honored. We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.'

¹⁰ "And now see what the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir are doing. You would not let our ancestors invade those nations when Israel left Egypt, so they went around them and did not destroy them. ¹¹ Now see how they reward us! For they have come to throw us out of your land, which you gave us as an inheritance. ¹² O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."

Jonah Prayer From Inside The Fish

Jonah 2:1-9

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish. ² He said,

“I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and LORD, you heard me!

³ You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea.

The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves.

⁴ Then I said, ‘O LORD, you have driven me from your presence. Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.’

⁵ “I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me. Seaweed wrapped itself around my head.

⁶ I sank down to the very roots of the mountains. I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever. But you, O LORD my God, snatched me from the jaws of death!

⁷ As my life was slipping away, I remembered the LORD. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple.

⁸ Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God’s mercies.

⁹ But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the LORD alone.”

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Jude

Jude 1:24-25

²⁴ Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. ²⁵ All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

Why do I pray?

I pray in trust that the act of prayer is God's designated way of closing the vast gulf between infinity and me.



Hannah's Prayer for a Son

I Samuel 1:10-11

¹⁰ Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. ¹¹ And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his

entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut.”

Elijah's Prayer of Despair

I Kings 19:10-18

But the LORD said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ Elijah replied, “I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

¹¹ “Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁴ He replied again, “I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

¹⁵ Then the LORD told him, “Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there,

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anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. ¹⁶ Then anoint Jehu grandson of Nimshi^[b] to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet. ¹⁷ Anyone who escapes from Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and those who escape Jehu will be killed by Elisha! ¹⁸ Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or kissed him!”

Mary’s Prayer of Praise

Luke 1:46-55

⁶ Mary responded,

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.

⁵⁵ For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.”

Why do I pray?

Simply
put,
because
Jesus did.



Solomon's Prayer Request

I Kings 3:5-10

⁵ That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

⁶ Solomon replied, "You showed faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued your faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

⁷ "Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. ⁸ And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! ⁹ Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom.

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David's Prayer of Forgiveness

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.

⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight.

You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

⁵ For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice.

⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

¹³ Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you.

¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves, then I will

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joyfully sing of your forgiveness.

¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.

¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

¹⁸ Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit—with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

Why do I pray?

Because
prayer
doesn't fit me
for a greater
work; **prayer
is the greater
work.**



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Job's Prayer of Repentance

Job 42:1-6

Then Job replied to the LORD:

² "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.

³ You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me.

⁴ You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.'

⁵ I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

⁶ I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."

Jesus's Prayer At Gethsemane

The simplest answer to the question "Why pray?" is "Because Jesus did." (78) Jesus relied on prayer as a kind of spiritual recharging. (79)

What are some examples about what Jesus prayed for?

- CHILDREN Matthew 19:13-15
- FOOD Mark 6:41-44
- STRENGTH/FAILURES Luke 22:31-32
- EXAMPLE/APPRECIATION John 11:38-42
- PERSONAL ADVOCATE John 14:16-18
- UNITY OF BELIEVERS John 17:20-23

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- UNITY/UNBELIEVERS/PROTECTION/EDUCATION/JOY John 17:6-19

Jesus knew the sensation of getting no answers to his pleas. (78)
Prayer for trivial things ... had little place in Jesus' practice. (78)
Jesus' prayers ... show a remarkable lack of concern about his own needs. (78)

John 17

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. ² For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. ⁴ I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

⁶ "I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, ⁸ for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

⁹ "My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. ¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.^[c] I guarded them so that not

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one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

¹³ “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. ¹⁴ I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

²⁰ “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

²⁵ “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. ²⁶ I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

David's Prayer of Praise

Psalm 45:8-13

The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

⁹ The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

¹⁰ All of your works will thank you, LORD, and your faithful followers will praise you.

¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your kingdom; they will give examples of your power.

¹² They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign.

¹³ For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations.

Why do I pray?

God
needs no
reminding of
the nature of
reality, but I
certainly do.



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Ezra's Prayer of Intercession For Israel

Ezra 9:5-15

⁵ At the time of the sacrifice, I stood up from where I had sat in mourning with my clothes torn. I fell to my knees and lifted my hands to the LORD my God. ⁶ I prayed,

“O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush to lift up my face to you. For our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens. ⁷ From the days of our ancestors until now, we have been steeped in sin. That is why we and our kings and our priests have been at the mercy of the pagan kings of the land. We have been killed, captured, robbed, and disgraced, just as we are today.

⁸ “But now we have been given a brief moment of grace, for the LORD our God has allowed a few of us to survive as a remnant. He has given us security in this holy place. Our God has brightened our eyes and granted us some relief from our slavery. ⁹ For we were slaves, but in his unfailing love our God did not abandon us in our slavery. Instead, he caused the kings of Persia to treat us favorably. He revived us so we could rebuild the Temple of our God and repair its ruins. He has given us a protective wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰ “And now, O our God, what can we say after all of this? For once again we have abandoned your commands! ¹¹ Your servants the prophets warned us when they said, ‘The land you are entering to possess is totally defiled by the detestable practices of the people living there. From one end to the other, the land is filled with corruption. ¹² Don’t let your daughters marry their

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sons! Don't take their daughters as wives for your sons. Don't ever promote the peace and prosperity of those nations. If you follow these instructions, you will be strong and will enjoy the good things the land produces, and you will leave this prosperity to your children forever.'

¹³ "Now we are being punished because of our wickedness and our great guilt. But we have actually been punished far less than we deserve, for you, our God, have allowed some of us to survive as a remnant. ¹⁴ But even so, we are again breaking your commands and intermarrying with people who do these detestable things. Won't your anger be enough to destroy us, so that even this little remnant no longer survives? ¹⁵ O LORD, God of Israel, you are just. We come before you in our guilt as nothing but an escaped remnant, though in such a condition none of us can stand in your presence."

Why do I pray?



With the Right Attitude and the Right Guidance I can pray almost constantly. I

can pray when I talk to people by letting the Lord lead my conversations. I can pray when I read my Bible by offering up my heart and thoughts to Him for enlightenment. I can pray in the car, in the line at the store, as I wash dishes and change sheets, while I eat lunch or pull weeds in my garden by willingly giving my actions over to God and letting Him lead so I can follow.

Types of Prayers

Supplication Prayers

Make a conscious decision to pray about something instead of worry about something. Can I trust God's promise to replace anxiety with a spirit of peace that will "guard" my heart and mind?

Determine to transfer your fear, anxiety, and impatience to God.

- Personality struggles, trials, finances, family relationships, goals and dreams, cars, friendships, homes, vacations, lost contacts, emotional hurts...the list goes on and on... Whenever you feel that overwhelmed, dull feeling in your stomach or feel bombarded with too many stress producing thoughts, you should simply pray. Admit your anxieties, relinquish your worries, and request His provisions for escape ... in big or small situations.

Scripture about Supplication Prayers:

Luke 11:1-4 Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon.

³ Give us each day the food we need, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."

James 4:2 ²You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. NLT

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Philippians 4:6 6Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. NLT

Psalms 23:4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

1 Peter 5:7-8 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Psalms 130:6 I long for the Lord more than sentries long for the dawn, yes, more than sentries long for the dawn.

Psalms 119:82-84 My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me? ⁸³ I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees. ⁸⁴ How long must I wait? When will you punish those who persecute me?

Believing Prayers

Constantly look for God to do the impossible, extraordinary, and unbelievable in your life.

Oh, to believe God for the impossible in our lives – not because we deserve it but because of His awesome love – and to allow Him to be glorified in the results is an extremely challenging but powerful prayer principle for those who believe! We are to put our believe in the Promiser – in God's power, love, and faithfulness.

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Scripture about Believing Prayers:

Matthew 21:22 22If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. NLT

Habakkuk 1:5 5The LORD replied, "Look at the nations and be amazed! Watch and be astounded at what I will do! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it. NLT

Why do I pray?

So God can
show me
what He's
doing today,
and how I
can be part
of it.



Revealing Prayers

Decide to ask God how you should pray when you are unsure of His will.

Rather than trying to convince God of something, ask Him to convince you of His will. Once feeling His assurance, through (1) Scripture, (2) His Spirit and yours agreeing, and (3) the godly counsel of other Christians, you're encouraged to wait until He brings the blessing of His answer. Having no time limits, this

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principle can become a month- to a year-long process in the case of certain requests.

Scripture about Revealing Prayers:

James 1:2-6 2Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. 3For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. 5If you need wisdom--if you want to know what God wants you to do--ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. 6But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. NLT

Interceding Prayers

Pray fervently but trust Him for the results.

Specific prayers for the needs and desires of family, friends, coworkers, Christian organizations, and those we may not even know.

Scripture about Interceding Prayers:

Colossians 1:9-12 9So we have continued praying for you ever since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you a complete understanding of what he wants to do in your lives, and we ask him to make you wise with spiritual wisdom. 10Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better. 11We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have

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all the patience and endurance you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people, who live in the light.

Why do I pray?

Because the habit of not praying is far more difficult to break than the habit of praying.



Corporate Prayers

Choose someone to pray for and pray with. Make a partnership.

Praying *with others* for God's intervention in any given situation creates excitement and incentive to keep agreeing in prayer! Pg. 117

Agreeing prayer can become contagious when others around you see God's hand moving in incredible, sometimes seemingly impossible, situations. From large to small agreeing prayers, God continually shows us that He is listening and faithful and that the size of the request is insignificant.

Scripture about Corporate Prayers:

Matthew 18:19-20 "I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. NLT

Persevering Prayers

Let nothing keep you from your prayers.

The secret of perseverance is patience and faith, waiting and hasting.

It is fair to acknowledge that one's faith is greatly challenged to grow during trials. Prayer then becomes the avenue of daily released the anxieties of humanly irreversible situations to God and sensing His presence amidst the unknown.

Scripture about Persevering Prayers:

Luke 18:1-8 1 One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must never give up. 2 "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who was a godless man with great contempt for everyone. 3 A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, appealing for justice against someone who had harmed her. 4 The judge ignored her for a while, but eventually she wore him out. 'I fear neither God nor man,' he said to himself, 5 'but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!' "

6 Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this evil judge. 7 Even he rendered a just decision in the end, so don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who plead with him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will grant

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justice to them quickly! But when I, the Son of Man, return, how many will I find who have faith?" NLT

Hebrews 11:1 ¹What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. NLT

Prayers of Thanksgiving/Worship

Every prayer, regardless of its type, should begin with an expression of thanks to God.

Prayers of thanksgiving and worship are very similar. The difference is that prayers of worship focus on who God is while thanksgiving focuses on what God has done.

Scripture about Thanksgiving/Worship Prayers:

Philippians 4:6 ⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

I Thessalonians 1:2 We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

Colossians 1:3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 95:6-7 Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker,
⁷for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today!

Prayers of Consecration

The Lord has called me. I must go.

Prayers of consecration involves a time in which we set ourselves apart from others to follow God's will. Jesus made such a prayer the night before His Crucifixion.

Scripture about Consecration Prayers:

Matthew 26:39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Why do I pray?

I pray in order
to put myself
in the stream
of God's
healing work
on earth.



Additional Thoughts On Prayer

Things To Remember:

Heart's Desire I have learned to tell God exactly what I want regardless of how impossible it may sound. (267)

Lament Maybe we can see things through tears that we can't see dry-eyed. (269)

Confession Sin can disrupt the relationship between ourselves and God in a way that jars the alignment of body, soul, and spirit. (269)

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? By Philip Yancey, Zondervan , 2006, Grand Rapids, Michigan ISBN 978-0-310-27105-5

How's Your Prayer Life?

by **Andy Burnett**

Become "conversational" with God, being always mindful of honoring Him as we address Him.

God converses with us as we read His Word, the Bible. One-way-only conversations don't work—with others or with God.

Pray in private (Matthew 6:6) at a time when there will be minimal distractions.

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It's a good idea for us to clear the cobwebs from our eyes before we pray. Otherwise, we can tend to fall asleep!

We must strive to become totally dependent on a relationship with our Father to the point that we feel like we can't survive physically and spiritually without Him. In reality, we can't.

We must make time for prayer *daily* for it to become a habit. It gets easier as we stick with it.

Do you value the opportunity you have to develop a strong, lifelong relationship with your spiritual Father? To do this you must pray daily. Remember, we will make time for what we value most. *GN*

<http://www.gnmagazine.org/issues/gn59/prayerlife.htm>

Why do I pray?

Because God is
alive all day, living
both around me
and inside me,
speaking in a still,
small voice and in
other ways I may
not even
recognize.



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10 Tips to Help Your Prayer Life

Gregory Koukl

1. **Choose a specific place to pray** away from distractions so you can concentrate. Ringing phones and crying children will sabotage your "quiet time" before it gets started.
2. **Pray at the same time every day**, if at all possible. Make it part of your regular routine and it will become habit. Write it into your schedule and then treat it just like a daily appointment.
3. **Pray out loud**. Many people can pray under their breath or in their minds for long periods and still maintain intensity, but for most of us it's a quick ticket to dreamland. When we pray out loud we have to form intelligent sentences. We have to concentrate more on what we're praying about.
4. **Keep a note pad handy** so you can jot down different things that come to mind while you're before the Lord. Sometimes you'll get great ideas totally unrelated to what you've been praying about. If you jot them down you can quickly get back to the topic at hand without being too distracted.
5. **Make a list** to keep track of your prayer needs. This can be done several ways. Prayer needs can be listed by category like "Church," "Family," or "Unsaved friends." Or they may be listed by the days of the week. Each day you pray for a different set of needs. You may want to include prayer everyday for a different area of society that has a tremendous influence on the direction of our nation. These seven categories include 1) the church and religion, 2) the family and the home, 3) the media, 4) government,

Prayer & Me

5) education, 6) business and commerce, and 7) the arts and entertainment.

6. Redeem time for praying out of unused corners of your schedule. Those who have to drive to work can use the time talking with the Lord instead of screaming at traffic (just don't close your eyes!). Busy homemakers can combine prayer with housework, especially if the task doesn't require a lot of concentration. Joggers, swimmers and cyclists can use their workout time for prayer. Sometimes my best times with the Lord have been chats during long, early morning walks or jogs along the beach.

7. Change the pace during your prayer time. Include praise, thanksgiving and singing as well as petition. Spend some of your time reflecting on the Scripture, meditating on it and digesting its meaning.

8. Keep a prayer journal. Here are two variations of this idea. The first is to keep track of what you prayed for and when you prayed for it. Leave a space to jot down the answer when it comes. This will help you to keep alert to God's answer so you can thank Him promptly. Sometimes prayer answers come in the back door and you don't want them to slip by you. The second variation is to write the entire prayer in your journal. Make it a personal letter to the Lord on a daily basis. Just write "Dear Lord" instead of "Dear Diary."

9. Pray with someone else. Though some prayers can only be said in solitude, there will be times when you'll want to join hearts with another person in prayer. If you commit to meet on a regular

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basis, the accountability can really help build consistency. Such prayer trysts can become powerful, life-changing events.

10. **Pray one-sentence prayers.** If the thought of laboring over a topic wears you out, pray short, sincere prayers instead. A sentence or two may be all that's needed to exhaust the topic for you for the time being. If so, just move on to the next item without feeling guilty for your brevity.

ACTS of Prayer

The goal is to spend time with God, not to follow a legalistic procedure.

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication (Yancey, 180)

8 Things To Pray For:

1. Pray for the harvest.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matt 9:37-38)

2. Pray for *national* and *local* leaders of government.

"I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (1 Tim 2:1-2)

3. Pray that God will open doors for ministry of the Word.

"Praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ..." (Col 4:3)

4. Pray for those who have mistreated you. Forgive them.

"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Lk 6:28)

"So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart." (Matt 18:35)

5. Pray that you will not be tempted.

"Pray that you may not enter into temptation." (Lk 22:40)

6. Pray that you may do no evil.

"Now we pray to God that you do no wrong..." (2 Cor 13:7)

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7. Pray that your love may abound toward all people.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment..." (Phil 1:9)

8. Pray that your whole spirit, mind and body be preserved blameless.

"Now may the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess 5:23)

<http://www.str.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5648>

Why do I pray?

I believe I can accomplish more for the world by praying faithfully than by walking into the White House, or Whitehall, or the Kremlin with suggestions.



A Checklist to Make Sure Your Prayers Are On Target

1. What do I really want? Am I being specific, or am I just rambling about nothing in particular?
2. Can God grant this request, or is it against God's nature to do so?
3. Have I done my part?
4. How is my relationship with God?
5. Who will get the credit if my request is granted? Do I have God's interests in mind?
6. Do I really want my prayer answered? (226-227)

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? By Philip Yancey, Zondervan, 2006, Grand Rapids, Michigan ISBN 978-0-310-27105-5

A Checklist for Healing

Jesus never promised to erase all poverty, all suffering, all human need. Rather, he announced a kingdom that values the needy above the beautiful and powerful and self-sufficient. 2 Corinthians 1:3

1. Am I expecting a miracle as an entitlement?
2. Am I using the benefits of God's "common grace" – the healing built into our bodies and the medical knowledge we have gained?
3. Do I wrongly blame God for causing the suffering?
4. Am I prepared for the possibility that physical healing may not take place? (264)

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Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? By Philip Yancey,
Zondervan , 2006, Grand Rapids, Michigan ISBN 978-0-310-27105-

5

Why do I pray?

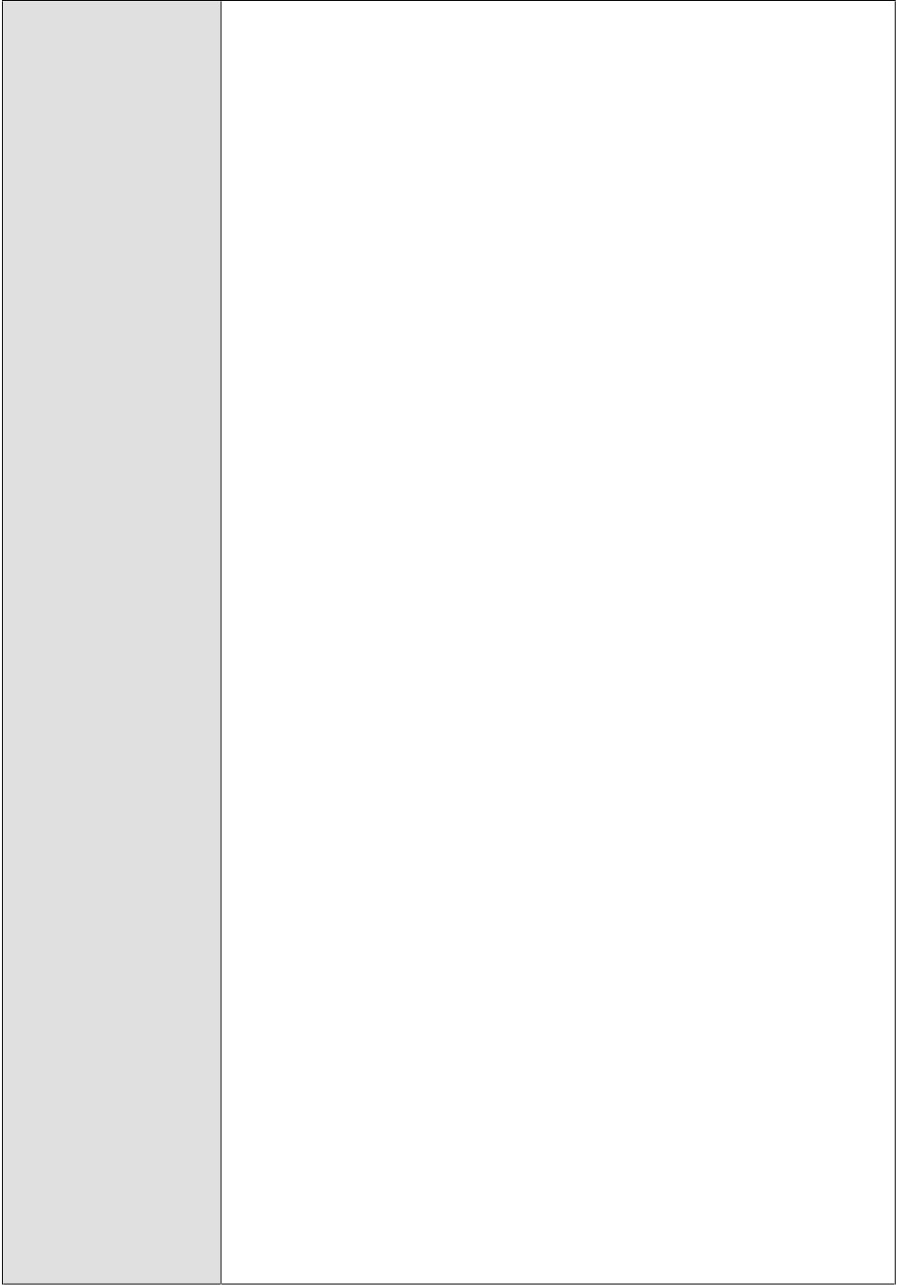


I pray because I believe prayer is a subversive act in a world that constantly calls faith into question ... and **I like to go against the world whenever I get the opportunity.**

Your Personal Prayer Plan

<p>When I will try to pray daily:</p> <p>(Give a length of time estimate, too.)</p>	
<p>Where I will try to pray daily:</p>	
<p>How I will remember what to pray for daily:</p>	
<p>What I will pray for daily:</p>	<p>Pray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the might and power of God. • Honoring God, recognizing how perfect and different God is from us. • Trusting that God will provide everything you need. • Asking for forgiveness just as you have forgiven others. • Asking for strength and wisdom to do what is right and avoid what is wrong. • Asking for God's will regarding your life's direction and regarding any requests or needs that you have. <p>In addition, I will pray for:</p>

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What change I would hope to see in myself as a result of this improved prayer life	
In addition to prayer, I will make a point to (devotions, memorize scripture?)	
I will have a prayer partner	
My prayer partner will be	

Some Scripture about Prayer

Exodus 23:13 "Be sure to obey all my instructions. And remember, never pray to or swear by any other gods. Do not even mention their names.

Psalms 5:2 Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I will never pray to anyone but you.

Psalms 119:145 I pray with all my heart; answer me, LORD! I will obey your principles.

Psalms 138:3 When I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me the strength I need.

Jeremiah 29:12 In those days when you pray, I will listen.

Matthew 5:44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

Luke 6:28 Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

Romans 12:14 If people persecute you because you are a Christian, don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

Matthew 6:5 [*Teaching about Prayer and Fasting*] "And now about prayer. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get.

Prayer & Me

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.

Matthew 6:7 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again.

Matthew 6:9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored.

Luke 11:2 He said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be honored. May your Kingdom come soon.

Matthew 26:41 Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough, the body is weak!"

Mark 14:38 Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough, the body is weak."

Mark 11:24 Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it.

Luke 10:2 These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, and ask him to send out more workers for his fields.

Romans 1:9 God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by telling others the Good News about his Son.

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Romans 1:10 One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you.

2 Corinthians 13:9 We are glad to be weak, if you are really strong. What we pray for is your restoration to maturity.

2 Corinthians 10:4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

Ephesians 1:16 I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly,

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people.

Ephesians 1:19 I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.

Ephesians 6:18 Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

Prayer & Me

[Ephesians 6:19](#) And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words as I boldly explain God's secret plan that the Good News is for the Gentiles, too.

[Philippians 1:9](#) I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding.

[Philippians 4:6](#) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

[Colossians 1:11](#) We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need. May you be filled with joy,

[Colossians 4:3](#) Don't forget to pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to preach about his secret plan--that Christ is also for you Gentiles. That is why I am here in chains.

[Colossians 4:4](#) Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

[1 Thessalonians 1:2](#) [*The Faith of the Thessalonian Believers*] We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

[2 Thessalonians 1:11](#) And so we keep on praying for you, that our God will make you worthy of the life to which he called you. And we pray that God, by his power, will fulfill all your good intentions and faithful deeds.

[2 Thessalonians 3:1](#) [*Pauls Request for Prayer*] Finally, dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray for us. Pray first that the

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Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 Pray, too, that we will be saved from wicked and evil people, for not everyone believes in the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:1 [*Instructions about Worship*] I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks.

1 Timothy 2:2 Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity.

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us, for our conscience is clear and we want to live honorably in everything we do.

James 5:16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

1 Peter 1:17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites when he judges. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as foreigners here on earth.

Jude 1:20 But you, dear friends, must continue to build your lives on the foundation of your holy faith. And continue to pray as you are directed by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 7:7 [*Effective Prayer*] "Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.

Prayer & Me

Matthew 21:22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

James 5:13 [*The Power of Prayer*] Are any among you suffering? They should keep on praying about it. And those who have reason to be thankful should continually sing praises to the Lord.

James 5:15 And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

James 5:16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

Jude 1:24 [*A Prayer of Praise*] And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence innocent of sin and with great joy.

Why do I pray?

If prayer stands
as a place
where God
and human
beings meet,
then I must
pray.



Prayer Quotes

Who one believes God to be is most accurately revealed not in any credo but in the way one speaks to God when no one else is listening. ~Nancy Mairs

Why should I ask of him that he would change for me the course of things? I who ought to love, above all, the order established by his wisdom and maintained by his Providence, shall I wish that order to be dissolved on my account? Rousseau

I have a notion that what seems our worst prayers may really be, in God's eyes, our best. Those, I mean, which are least supported by devotional feeling and contend with the greatest disinclination. For these, perhaps, being nearly all will, come from a deeper level than feeling. ~C.S. Lewis

Keeping company with God includes far more than the time I devote to prayer each day. God is alive all day, living both around me and inside me, speaking in a still, small voice and in other ways I may not even recognize. ~Philip Yancey

God is not really silent, we are deaf. ~Teresa of Avila.

“Create space in which God can act.” Henry Nouwen

“The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men.” ~George Washington

You shall love God with everything you have and everything you are. Everything. Every longing, every endowment, each of your intellectual gifts, any athletic talent or computer skill, all capacity

Prayer & Me

for delight, every good thing that has your fingerprints on it – take all this, says Jesus, and refer it to God. Take your longing, and long for God: take your creaturely riches, and endow God; take your eye for beauty and appreciate God. With your heart and soul and mind, with all your needs and splendors, make a full turn toward God. ~Plantings

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive Thee, intelligence to understand Thee, diligence to see Thee, patience to wait for Thee, eyes to behold Thee, a heart to meditate upon Thee, and a life to proclaim Thee; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. ~Benedict of Nursia

Pray as if everything depended upon God and work as if everything depended upon man. Francis Cardinal Spellman (1889 - 1967)

You can pray for someone even if you don't think God exists. Real Live Preacher, *RealLivePreacher.com Weblog*, July 7, 2003

There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers. ~Saint Theresa of Jesus

No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it. ~Guy H. King

Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines. ~Satchel Paige, 1974

Deep down in me I knowed it was a lie, and He knowed it. You can't pray a lie - I found that out. ~Mark Twain

Most people do not pray; they only beg. ~George Bernard Shaw

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There is a mighty lot of difference between saying prayers and praying. ~John G. Lake

When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't pray, they don't. ~William Temple

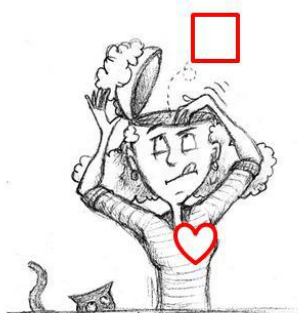
There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him. ~William Law

Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work. ~Oswald Chambers

Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused. ~ *Spurgeon*

Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons; but they are helpless against our prayers. ~J. Sidlow Baxter

Why do I pray?



I pray with an open heart and an open mind. After all, **God cannot fill what has not been emptied.** God is more creative, more powerful, and more clever than I could ever imagine so I'd rather go with His Ideas. Plus, He's got a great sense of humor.

Great Quotes From Yancey's Book on Prayer

Prayer is the act of seeing reality from God's point of view. (29)

God needs no reminding of the nature of reality, but I do. (22)

We must trust God with what God already knows. (42)

A God unbound by our rules of time has the ability to invest in every person on earth. (49)

The main purpose of prayer is not to make life easier, nor to gain magical powers, but to know God. I need God more than anything I might get from God. (56)

I remind myself that the Son of God, who had spoken worlds into being and sustains all that exists, felt a compelling need to pray. He prayed as if it made a difference, as if the time he devoted to prayer mattered every bit as much as the time he devoted to caring for people. (79)

Often God rules by overruling. (84)

Satan conquers no one without cooperation. (84)

In three years of active ministry, Jesus changed the moral landscape of the planet. For nearly two thousand years since, he has been using another tactic: prayer. (88)

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God asks me to make myself known to him in prayer and then works my prayers into a master plan for my life – a plan which I can only faintly grasp. (113)

We are Christ's body on earth, after all; he has no hands but ours. And yet to act as Christ's body we need an unbroken connect to the Head. We pray in order to see the world with God's eyes, and then to join the stream of power as it breaks loose. (124)

Consistently, God chooses the course of action in which human partners can contribute most. (137)

The act of prayer brings together Creator and creature, eternity and time, in all the fathomless mystery implied by that convergence. (139)

Why pray? Evidently, God likes to be asked. (143)

God is doing nothing less than offering to his praying church a part in his government of the world. (149)

Isn't it the greatest possible disaster, when you are wrestling with God, not to be beaten? (153)

Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays. (151)

If prayer stands as a place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer. (17)

A person prays that he himself may be constructed, not that God may be instructed. (154)

Like sex, prayer centers in relationship more than in technique. (159)

Prayer & Me

Much of the benefit of prayer comes as result of consistency, the simple act of showing up. (165)

God, show me what you are doing today, and how I can be part of it. (168)

I look for God in the everydayness of life. "Aha" moments catch me by surprise: a surge of gratitude, a pang of compassion. But they catch me, I have learned, only when I am looking for them. (183)

I am convinced the main requirement in prayer is honesty. (185)

Forget past failures, forget recurring sins, forget feelings of inferiority, and instead open your mind to God, who cannot fill what has not been emptied. (185)

We are not called to duplicate someone else on earth but to realize our authentic selves. (190)

The habit of not praying is far more difficult to break than the habit of praying. (202)

What is faith, after all, but believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse? (210)

Prayer involves more than bowing my head a few times a day; it pervades all of life and vice versa. (225)

Finite humans can never know the will of an infinite God with absolute certainty. (227-228)

By answering every possible prayer, God would in effect abdicate, turning the world over to us to run. (228)

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Just because He doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care.
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers. (230)

Remember that God also buried his Son on the mission field. (231)

The more we know God, the more we know God's will, the more likely our prayers will align with that will. (235)

God's plan unfolds like a leisurely opera, not a Top 40 tune. (238)

We make a mistake to think that effective prayer must involve great effort. (271)

Any time spent in prayer seems wasted to someone who has other priorities than a relationship with God. For one who loves God, however, there is no more productive, or necessary, act. (287)

90% of praying is showing up. (289)

According to Frank Laubach, we would accomplish more for the world by praying faithfully than by walking into the White House, or Whitehall, or the Kremlin with suggestions. (309)

Prayer in awareness of enemies, not to mention prayer *for* enemies, offers an opportunity for self-reflection; in a strange way, our enemies help to define us as much as our friends do. (311)

I like to think of my conversations with people as prayer ... I willingly refer my actions to God, and in doing so they become a prayer. (314)

Prayer & Me

We do far better to act like a trusting child, presenting foolish requests and letting the Father make judgments, than to fret in advance over appropriate petitions. (320)

Somehow our love means something incalculable to the God of the universe. (323)

I pray in astonished belief that God desires an ongoing relationship. I pray in trust that the act of prayer is God's designated way of closing the vast gulf between infinity and me. I pray in order to put myself in the stream of God's healing work on earth. I pray as I breathe – because I can't help it. (326)

The entire Bible chronicles God's effort to renew what was lost on that day in the garden when Adam hid and no longer conversed with God as a friend. One day we will all have that chance. (328)

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? By Philip Yancey,
Zondervan , 2006, Grand Rapids, Michigan ISBN 978-0-310-27105-5

Prayer Resources

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?, By Philip Yancey,
Zondervan Publishers, 2010 ISBN 978-0310328889

Books Recommended by Barbara Harayda:

The Name of Jesus, By Kenneth E. Hagin, Faith Library
Publications, 2010

Destined to Reign, By Joseph Prince, Harrison House, 2010

Battlefield of the Mind, By Joyce Meyer, FaithWords, 2011

Why do I pray?

I make the effort

to maintain a ground of oceanic silence
out of which arises the multitude of phenomena of
daily life.

I make the effort

to see and to passionately open in love to the
spirit that infuses all things.

I make the effort

to see the Beloved in everyone
and to serve the Beloved through everyone
(including the earth).

I often fail in these aspirations
because I lose the balance between
separateness and unity,
get lost in my separateness,
and feel afraid.

But I make the effort. from [Dase](#)



Personal Prayer Survey

Just to make you think...

Part I: Me & God

1. The ultimate authority in my life is
 - My family's survival
 - My needs minute by minute
 - God's eternity
2. I operate by
 - God's timeline
 - My timeline
3. The laws of genetics
 - Should be disbanded based on my person whim
 - Should be disbanded only according to God's timeline
4. I would describe my relationship with God as
 - Distant
 - Acquaintance
 - Friendship
 - Partnership

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5. If you carried on the same kind of relationship with your friends that you have with God, do you think you would have more or fewer friends than you do now?

More

Fewer

Same

Part II: YOUR PRAYERS IN GENERAL:

6. My purpose for praying is so

I can pose a request to God

I can establish a relationship with God

7. I want God to fulfill prayers

Even if He knows they are not in my best interest

That I think are best

That He thinks are best

8. I understand what I should and shouldn't pray for.

No

I think I do

Yes

9. My prayers make a difference.

No

I think they do.

Yes

Prayer & Me

10. The frequency of unanswered prayers in my life is

All the time. My prayers never get answered.

Sometimes. I just never know.

Never. Every single one of my prayers are faithfully answered. What was your most recent victory through prayer?

11. Is your prayer life better now than it was a year ago?

Yes

No

12. Jesus lived a perfect life on earth, connecting with His Father through prayer, and relying on Him for wisdom and power. Do you think it is possible for us to have the same kind of relationship with God?

Yes

No

13. What do you think prayer does for you personally?

Nothing so far

It gets me things I need and want

It keeps me on the right track spiritually

It makes me feel closer to God

It helps me better understand myself

It helps me understand God's will better

14. Do you sense the presence of God when you pray?

Never

Sometimes

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Always

15. Do you find your prayers satisfying?

Never

Sometimes

Always

Part III: YOUR STYLE:

16. Do you have a quiet time with God where you only listen?

Yes

No

Sometimes

17. How often should you pray

3 times a day like Daniel

at least once a day

whenever you need to

on very special occasions

when you've come to the end of your own
resources

only when you come to church

many times a day

Prayer & Me

18. Think about the prayers you usually pray. What is the focus of your prayers?

myself and my needs

my family and its needs

my friends and their needs

the world and its needs

thanksgiving and praise for God's goodness

19. What time of day do you pray?

I don't pray

Early AM

Mid-Morning

Afternoon

Evening

After Midnight

No Special Time, it always varies

20. How long do you spend in prayer each day?(Circle your answer)

Too little to time

15 Minutes

30 Minutes

1 Hour

More than 1 Hour

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21. What is your posture in prayer?

Kneeling

Walking

Lying down

Sitting quietly

Anyway I can

22. Do you have a specific place where you pray each day?

Yes

No

If Yes, where?

23. Do you regularly pray for (circle all that apply)

the persecuted church?

for the pastors and teachers of your church?

for the missionaries of your church?

for souls to be saved?

for your children?

for your spouse?

for worldwide revival?

24. Do you have a prayer partner?

Yes

No

Part IV: YOUR EXTENDED PRAYER ACTIVITIES:

25. Do you read your Bible during your prayer time?

Yes

No

26. Do you read through the Bible each year?

Yes

No

Never have

27. Do you use a devotional in your prayer time?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the name of your current devotional?

28. Do you routinely keep a prayer journal?

Yes

No

29. Do you fast?

Yes

No

Sometimes

30. Do you memorize Scriptures?

Yes

No

Sometimes

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31. What do you think Jesus would have you change or adjust with your prayer time while participating in this Bible Study?

Part V: PRAYER TRIVIA:

32. "Amen" means
- The End
 - Surely, indeed, truly
 - Please, allow this to be so
 - All of the above
33. A prayer is
- A fervent request
 - Said only in silence
 - Can only be directed to a deity
 - None of the above
34. Which is an example of prayer to God?
- Confession of sins
 - Songs of praise
 - Words of devotion or gratitude
 - All of the above
35. The Lord's Prayer
- Was Jesus' "how to" instruction guide
 - Must be said daily
 - Is a adaptation of an ancient Jewish prayer
 - All of the above

<http://www.wgbd.org/prayer-assessment.html>http://cornerstoneconnections.adventist.org/CornerTchr/2006/Q2/Q2_06_CCTGLesson6.pdf#search=%22prayer%20questionnaire%22

About The Author

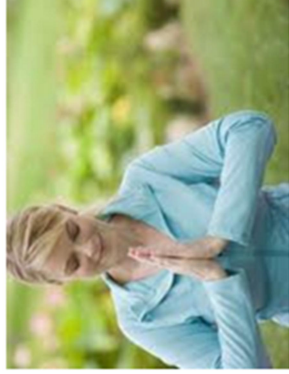
Susan McGeown is a wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, aunt, uncle (don't ask), teacher, author ... but, most importantly, a "woman after God's own heart." Always working on a new book, she has five historical novels (including *Rosamund's Bower*, 2008 RCRW's Golden Rose winner in the category of 'Novel with Romantic Elements'), seven contemporary fiction novels, and seven nonfiction Bible studies (at last count anyway). She's been a teacher, a conference leader, a public speaker, a Children's minister, a deacon, an elder, a vacation Bible school coordinator, a preschool director, and a Bible study leader yet writing stories is just about the best way she can imagine spending her time. Living in Bridgewater, New Jersey, with her husband of over twenty years and their three children, each of Sue's stories champions those emotions nearest and dearest to her: faith, joy, hope and love.

Philippians 1:20-21

Why do I pray?

- Make of your life an offering!
- Make of your life a prayer!
- Be awake to the Life that is loving you and sing your prayer, laugh your prayer, Dance your prayer, run and weep and sweat your prayer,
- Sleep your prayer, eat your prayer,
- Pain, sculpt, hammer, and read your prayer,
- Sweep, dig, rake, drive, and hoe your prayer,
- Garden and farm and build and clean your prayer
- Wash, iron, vacuum, sew, embroider, and pickle your prayer,
- Compute, touch, bend, and fold but never delete or mutilate your prayer.

- Learn and pray your prayer,
- Work and rest your prayer,
- Fast and feast your prayer,
- Argue, talk, whisper, listen, and shout your prayer,
- Groan and moan and spit and sneeze your prayer,
- Swim and hunt and cook your prayer,
- Digest and become your prayer,
- Release and recover your prayer,
- Breathe your prayer,
- Be your prayer.



Alio Renee Bozartin