

Pray

One thing in the very heart of God – His people shall pray, pray, and pray!

- My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isa 56:7)
- Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD. (Gen 4:26)

Quotes from various servants of God:

“God will do nothing but in answer to prayer.” – John Wesley

“Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom. If you may have everything by asking in His Name, and nothing without asking, I beg you to see how absolutely vital prayer is.” – C. H. Spurgeon

“Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God’s voice in response to mine is its most essential part.” – Andrew Murray

“Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. – Andrew Murray

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. – Andrew Murray

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.” – A. J. Gordon

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience. It is a great matter when in extreme need to take hold on prayer. I know whenever I have prayed earnestly that I have been amply heard, and have obtained more than I prayed for. God indeed sometimes delayed, but at last He came.” – Martin Luther

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” – Samuel Chadwick

“I do not think he (devil) minds our praying about things if we leave it at that. What he minds, and opposes steadily, is the prayer that prays on until it is prayed through, assured of the answer.” – Mary Warburton Booth

“Work as if everything depended upon your work, and pray as if everything depended upon your prayer.” – William Booth

“A great many people do not pray because they do not feel any sense of need. The sign that the Holy Spirit is in us is that we realize that we are empty, not that we are full. We have a sense of absolute need. A sense of need is one of the greatest blessings because it keeps our life rightly related to Jesus Christ.” – Oswald Chambers

“We Christians too often substitute prayer for playing the game. Prayer is good; but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is nothing but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism. – C. T. Studd

“Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience.” – A. W. Tozer

“If weak in prayer we are weak everywhere.” – Leonard Ravenhill

“A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God.” – Leonard Ravenhill

“The very essence of prayer is the spirit of devotion. Without devotion prayer is an empty form, a vain round of words.” – E. M. Bounds

“Some people become tired at the end of ten minutes or half an hour of prayer. What will they do when they have to spend Eternity in the presence of God? We must begin the habit here and become used to being with God.” –

Sadhu Sunder Singh

“The essence of prayer does not consist in asking God for something but in opening our hearts to God, in speaking with Him, and living with Him in perpetual communion.” – *Sadhu Sunder Singh*

“No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer.” – *J. Edwin Orr*

“Prayer - secret, fervent, believing prayer - lies at the root of all personal godliness.” – *William Carey*

“The prayers and supplications that Christ offered up were, joined with strong cries and tears, herein setting us example not only to pray, but to be fervent and importunate in prayer. How many dry prayers, how few wet ones, do we offer up to God!” – *Mathew Henry*

George Muller had in his lifetime over half a million direct answers to prayer recorded and prayed in over 1.5 million pounds to support orphanages with children.

What does Scripture say about prayer?

- "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mar 11:22-24)
- 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. (1Joh 14-15)
- The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (Jam 5:16)

Why then we don't often see the fruits of our prayers? What are the hindrances?

Sin

- If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Ps 66:18)
- Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. (Isa 59:1-2)

Disobedience

- 'When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the LORD Almighty. (Zach 7:13)
- We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does His will. (Joh 9:31)

Unbelief

- But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; (Jam 1:6-7)

Wrong motive

- When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (Jam 4:3)

Unmindful of God's heart and ignorant of God's way

- But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, He rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" He said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." (Mar 8:33)
- When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. (Luk 9:54-55)

Lack of persistence

- Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luk 18:1)

Corporate prayer

Nothing is more powerful than united prayer joined together by those who understand the principles of prayer and are willing to pay the price of praying!

- "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." (Mat 18:18-19)
- Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (Jam 14:15)
- So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Act 12:5)
- "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Est 4:16)
- They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (Act 1:14)

One common mistake in corporate prayer – pray to **men** instead of to **God**, or in another word, being conscious of men instead of being conscious of God

- "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. (Mat 6:5)
- "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' (Luk 18:13)

Various aspects of prayer

Praise

- Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. (Heb 13:15)

Thanksgiving

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. (Ps 107:1)

Confession

- They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God. (Neh 9:3)

Intercession

- I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. (1Tim 2:1)

Supplication

- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Phil 4:6)

How to pray

Go into the “inner room” (our hearts), and close the “door” (of our heart)

- But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Mat 6:6)

Confess, repent and furthermore ask Him to search our hidden sins – be sure there’s no darkness in us and we’re completely covered and cleansed by the blood of the Lamb

- **Without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Heb 12:14)**

Seeing with our inner eyes that He Is and He hears

- **And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. (Heb 11:6)**

Seek His face with a humble heart

- **If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2Chr 7:14)**

Wait upon Him and “listen” – no need to rush

- **Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. (Ecc 5:1-2)**

Pray according to His command

- **"This, then, is how you should pray:" 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' (Mat 6:9-13)**

Pray according to His promise

- **Remember Your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom You swore by Your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' " (Exo 32:13)**

Pray prayers in the Bible

- **Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. (Ps 90:1)**

Be devoted and persistent

- **Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Col 4:2)**
- **pray continually; (1The 5:17)**

Depend on the Holy Spirit

- **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.**
- **But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 1:20)**

All great servants of God **with no exception** are great pray-ers! (Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Paul, Peter...) If He could find one person meeting His requirements, He **MUST** respond according to His promise because He is covenant keeping God. Would you pray to God, **“At any cost, make me a man or a woman of prayer”?**

- **The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. (Ps 14:2)**

If you don’t know where to begin with, just simply “pour out your heart” to God.

- **Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge. (Ps 62:8)**