

The Life of Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray

Luke 11:1

Matthew 6: 5 “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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

Matthew 6: 6 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. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Matthew 6: 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Prayer is not...

Prayer is not...

(1). About a quantity of words.

Prayer is not...

(2). About a quality of words.

Prayer is not...

(3). About telling God what you
need.

Prayer is not...

(4). About the what.

Matthew 6: 9 “This, then, is **how** you should
pray:

Prayer is about
the how.

Matthew 6: 6 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.

The way we live our faith
strongly shapes our prayer life.

1 Peter 3: 7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will **hinder your prayers.**

1 Samuel 14: 37 So Saul asked God, “Shall I go down and pursue the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel’s hand?” But God **did not answer him...**

Isaiah 1: 15 When you spread out your hands
in prayer,

I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Isaiah 1: Your hands are full of blood!

16 Wash and make yourselves clean.

Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.

Psalm 66: 17 I cried out to him with my mouth;

his praise was on my tongue.

18 If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord **would not have listened;**

If prayer is a plane that gets
you to God,
then how you live is like getting
to the right terminal and gate.

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(1.) Focuses on God's will.

James 4: 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything , he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

James 4: 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to his will**, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

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(2.) Needs a sacrifice.

James 4: 3 You ask and do not receive,
because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your
passions.

Ezra 8:23

Daniel 9:3

Acts 13:2

Acts 14:23

Esther 4

2 Chronicles 20

2 Samuel 12:16

Jonah 3

Ezra 8:23

Daniel 9:3

Acts 13:2

Acts 14:23

Esther 4

2 Chronicles 20

2 Samuel 12:16

Jonah 3

They Fasted

Prayer is an act of faith
rooted in trusting God.

God gave everything so our
prayers could be heard.

Adding sacrifice to prayer is
how we reflect that love.

What are you willing to sacrifice?

Fears

Time

Convenience

Doubts

Hurt

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**(3.) Sees prayer itself as the
answer to prayers.**

Matthew 6: 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

Matthew 6: 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Prayers make our burdens fade
beneath the creation God has
made.

Is prayer
worth it?

*I PRAY BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I
PRAY BECAUSE I'M HELPLESS. I PRAY
BECAUSE THE NEED FLOWS OUT OF ME ALL
THE TIME, WAKING AND SLEEPING. IT DOESN'T
CHANGE GOD. IT CHANGES ME.*

CS LEWIS

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