

# Prayer – God’s Key To Fullness of Life



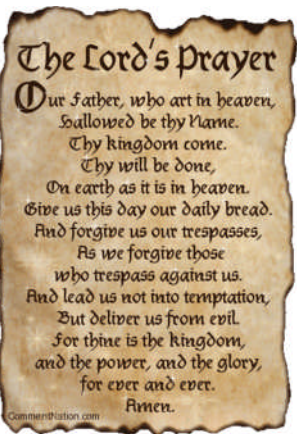
***Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.*** (Isaiah 65:24)

What is prayer? Prayer is simply communication with God. God created us for friendship and sharing. Even though God

knows all about us, He has asked that we open the door of our hearts and allow Him to come in so we can talk and share one with the other as friends. That’s prayer. Jesus says: ***“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”*** (Revelation 3:20) This is what happens when we pray. We invite Jesus into our lives and our circumstances.



As believers in Jesus, the most effective and powerful tool we have is prayer. The Bible tells us that we are to pray without ceasing. Jesus, himself, made it a priority in His life here on earth to pray. He loved speaking with His Father in heaven and hearing back from Him. Jesus sought out this special time of personal loving communication with His Heavenly Father over and over again. The Bible tells us, ***“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed”***. (Luke 5:16)

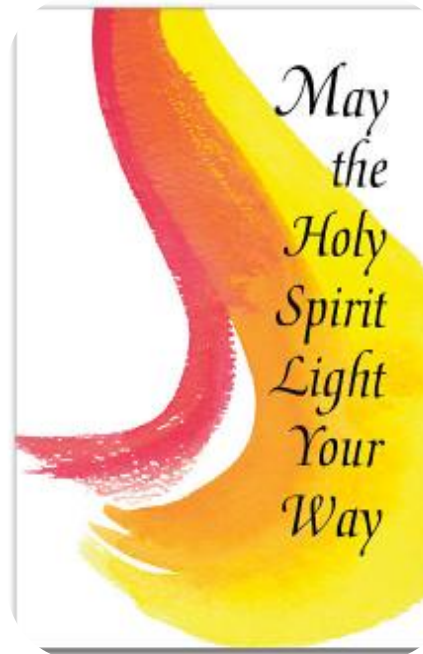


Jesus’ disciples observed this and they asked Him to teach them how to pray. He said to them “When you pray, say: ***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen*** (Matt. 6:9-13)

What was Jesus teaching us about praying with these words? As we pray we can speak with God just as we would with a friend who comes to visit. We can talk about our families, our friends, our neighbours, or ourselves. We can talk about those things that are causing us concern or those things that are giving us joy. We can talk about the Lord’s work in the spreading of the Gospel, about our concern for the salvation of family members or friends and acquaintances. We can talk about those who know Jesus and how to encourage them as they grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. We can talk about any created thing and express our desire that the whole earth would glorify our gracious God for all His works and goodness to us.



The Bible is full of examples of what faithful people said when they prayed. The apostle Paul prayed for the believers in the church ***“Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”***



(Ephesians 1:15-19 NIV)



Prayer is the working out of our faith. We pray because we believe that God is who He says He is and that He loves us, and has redeemed us. We pray because we believe God hears every word we say or even whisper. We believe that God wants to reveal Himself to us as

the caring Father He truly is. The apostle Paul spoke these words ***“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’”*** (Act 17:26-28)

When our prayers are answered by our loving Heavenly Father our faith thrives, becoming stronger and more certain. Dr. Charles Stanley says, "The journey of faith is not always safe; growing in the Lord involves seasons of pain, testing, and uncertainty. That is what faith is about—seeing Him moving and working behind everything."<sup>1</sup> If we seek God only when life is in chaos, our faith will be weak, our persistence will be slack, and our endurance will waver. If we learn to seek God when there is no crisis, we won't be thrown off balance when problems do occur.



How we react to situations and events shows the source of our strength. Oswald Chambers says "There are times when there is no storm or crisis in our lives, and we do all that is humanly possible. But it is when a crisis arises that we instantly reveal upon whom we rely."<sup>2</sup> Prayer is tapping into the unlimited resources of our loving heavenly Father who is interested in our problems and the problems of those about whom we care. God is greater than any problem. He wants us to seek Him in prayer over and over again throughout our day. God desires for us to live victoriously, regardless of our circumstances.



Let's not wait until we are facing adversity to seek God in prayer. Let's learn how to pray in good times and in difficult times. Let's be relentless in praying.

**Questions For Meditation and Discussion**

1. In what way can I make more of my life of prayer with God?
2. How does communication with God change lives?

<sup>1</sup> (Adapted from material on [www.intouch.org](http://www.intouch.org) ©2002)  
<sup>2</sup> (Aug 12) @<http://utmost.org/the-theology-of-resting-in-god/>



*When we seek God and surrender to Him, we receive renewed hope for positive change in our lives.*