

Life on Mission #4: “Pray on Mission”

See Video Below to learn “How NOT to Pray”:

[Illustration :: How Not to Pray - RightNow Media](https://www.rightnowmedia.org)

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Myths about Prayer:

1. Prayer must be done in public places with only trained professionals
2. The more words we use, the more likely that God will hear & answer our prayers. After all, if we keep asking we can eventually wear God down.
3. God only hears the prayers of good people.
4. God’s gives one of three answers to prayer: “no”, “yes”, or “later”
5. Prayer is too difficult to understand and practice for the average person

What does the Bible say concerning these myths?

*“And when you come before God, **don’t turn that into a theatrical production** either [like giving to the poor can become]. All **these people making a regular show out of their prayers**, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat?” (Matthew 6:5 MSG)*

Prayer isn’t a formula; prayer is a family affair:

*“The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re **full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques** for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. **This is your Father you are dealing with**, and he knows better than you what you need. **With a God like this loving you**, you can **pray very simply**.” (Matthew 6:7 - 9a MSG)*

Someone says, “BUT Doesn’t the Bible Read?”

*“We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will” (John 9:31 NIV)? Who is speaking? The Bible also says, “**Come near to God** and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, **you sinners**, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8 NIV)...“Everyone **who calls on the name of the Lord will be save**” (Rom. 10:13)*

*“As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been ‘Yes’ and ‘No’. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed...was not ‘Yes’ and ‘No’, but **in him [Christ] it is always YES.** For **all the promises of God find their YES in him.** That is why it is **through him** that **we utter our AMEN [‘YES’] to God** for his glory” (2 Corinthians 1:18-20 ESV).*

But what does prayer have to do with Life on Mission? Answer these simple questions:

1. Who’s mission is it?
2. It stands to reason that if it is His mission we should confer with Him along the way?
3. In our Life Group video lesson on GROW we learned the importance of “*Abiding in the Vine*” - Jesus said, “**APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING**”

John 15:5, 7-8, 16 NIV *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit...I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—**fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.**”*

Three Prayers to Pray to Bear Fruit for “Life on Mission”:

#1: Pray for Workers, not for Harvest: *“Then he [JESUS] said to his disciples [US], ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’. (See Matthew 9:35 - 38 NIV)*

1. Crowd of Sick & Diseased
2. Harassed & Helpless
3. Sheep WITH NO Shepherd

John 4:35 ESV *“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”*

#2: Pray for eyes to be opened - WHY? 2 Cor. 4:3-4

*“...if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing [KJV “lost”]. In their case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the***

unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”

Ephesians 1:18 - 20 ESV “I do not cease to give thanks for you...in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.”

#3: Upon spending Time in His Presence PRAY THIS PRAYER: “here I am, Lord, SEND ME!” Isaiah 6:1 - 8 NIV

*****Isaiah’s response [ours too] to his [our] special encounter with God*****

Acknowledge WHO GOD IS: “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory’.”

Acknowledge WHO YOU ARE WITHOUT HIM: “At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty’.”

Let Him touch you, cleanse you & SEND YOU: “Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”