

Tips For Developing Your Prayer Life (part 3)
Empowered To Win!

4.27.2025

5.4.2025

5.11.2025

Today I will begin on page 8 of this outline!

Introduction

I want to talk to you today about developing your personal prayer life.

E.W. Kenyon

Prayer should be as natural as breathing and enjoyable as eating!

One of the most important things we can do right now is develop our prayer life and keep it strong.

Don't wait for the crisis of life to come to learn to pray. Learn to pray before the crisis, or you will be at a disadvantage.

God is a spirit. We are spirit, soul, and body.

We must learn how to spiritually connect with the Lord in prayer.

WiFi keeps people connected with all their apps and social media, prayer keeps you in touch with the creator of all that is!

That means we must push past our humanness, our flesh, and learn to commune with God.

A huge aid in this is the baptism with the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues.

The spiritual pressure has never been greater!

Jesus told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the power of God (Acts 1:8)

God wants you to talk to Him, to commune with Him!

Proverbs 15:8 (NKJV)

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 15:8 (BBE)

The offering of the evil-doer is disgusting to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright man is his delight.

Get into the Word. Even better, get the Word into you! Then learn to pray!

In my first Bible School in SC, I heard this definition of prayer:

Prayer is praying in the name of Jesus, according to the Word of God, by the Holy Spirit, without ceasing.

Romans 12:12 (PHILLIPS)

Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently,
steadfastly maintain the *habit* of prayer.

A habit is something you do consistently without thinking a lot about it. It's something you do that becomes part of your routine.

What kind of prayer habits do you have?

Have you developed your ability to pray?

I started my life praying:

Now I lay me down to sleep...

God is great! God is good, let us thank Him for our food...

Our Father, which art in heaven...

I've grown beyond that now. Have you?

In 1984, God dealt with me about getting up early to meet with Him, first of all in reading the Word, and then in prayer.

What is first in your life? Make me first in your day.

You wouldn't think of leaving home in the morning without dressing yourself!

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Samuel Chadwick

Satan fears nothing from prayerless studies, teaching, and preaching. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.

D.L. Moody

Those who have left the deepest impression on this sin cursed earth have been men and women of prayer.

E.M. Bounds

How we estimate and place prayer is how we estimate and place God. To give prayer a secondary place is to make God secondary in life's affairs.

Years ago I had a dream that I was naked in public. Everyone but me was dressed for the day!

Would it not be crazy to leave home undressed?

We leave home spiritually naked without praying first!

We should not think of leaving home without praying about our day!

Pressure is best dealt with in prayer.

You deal with the demonic realm in prayer with oppression/depression/fear, panic attacks, etc.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NLT)

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the **belt of truth** and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 **For shoes**, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the **shield of faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on **salvation as your helmet**, and take the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

The whole reason we put our spiritual clothes on everyday is so that we can pray and get answers!

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Again, we put on the armor of God so we can pray effectively!

We build up an ability to pray effectively over time.

It's just like learning to drive a car. You learn by doing.

Isaiah 28:10 (NKJV)

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

Incremental maturity is a part of life, including our prayer life.

Mark 4:28 (NLT)

The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens.

In most everything in life, we start small and grow.

I've been developing my praying for 48 plus years now.

Start where you are and develop your own prayer life.

And with prayer, it's better "caught" than "taught."

Question. What would keep you from our prayer meetings? Come if you are not working.

Here are 5 tips to help you grow in prayer.

1. Meditate the scriptures about God's Fatherly love for you.

Even though I have a church background as a child, I still had the idea that God sort of tolerated me, and that He loved me because He had to, not because He wanted to love me.

Your idea of what God is like often parallels your relationship with your human father/parents.

I found myself drawn to these scriptures that affirm God's personal, individual love for us!

John 16:27 (NKJV)

For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

John 16:27 (AMP)

For the Father Himself [tenderly] loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came out from the Father.

John 17:23 (NKJV)

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Psalms 103:8-13 (NKJV)

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him.

Psalms 103:13 (ESV)

As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Psalms 145:8-9 (NKJV)

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Psalms 145:14-19 (NKJV)

The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. 15 The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. 16 You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. 17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

Psalms 146:8-9 (NKJV)

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD raises those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. 9 The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

2. Get to know the scriptures that promise answered prayer.

Once you know that God loves you because He wants to, the next important thing is to **change your views** about answered prayer.

That is, **develop your faith in answered prayer.**

Don't just pray to fulfill a duty. Pray with the expectation of an answer!

In church as a child I heard this about prayer: Sometimes God says yes. Sometimes God says no, and sometimes He says nothing.

We ended every prayer with *if it be your will*.

So prayer was sort of hit and miss. You just really never knew if God was going to answer your particular prayer.

If it was answered, it was His will. If it was not answered, it was not His will.

So, the idea I got was that God pretty much did what He wanted to do. It was all up to Him and I had little to do with it except to acknowledge that He is God and His ways are best. And I just need to accept whatever comes as His will.

Most of the religious world thinks that way.

But, what does God's Word say?

What God's Word says is SO different than what I just mentioned!

God wants to answer your prayer!

And, He said He would!

Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Luke 11:9-10 (NKJV)

So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

John 15:7 (NKJV)

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 16:22 (ESV)

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

John 16:23-24 (NKJV)

And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

1 John 3:22-23 (NKJV)

And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Build your faith up in answered prayer.

If you are like me, I had years of religious tradition to unseat in my mind!

Root it out of you with the Word!

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I have made these scriptures a part of me, so that any time a crisis arises, I am ready to pray!

I encourage you to make faith in God to answer prayer a part of your consciousness!

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Psalms 34:15-17 (NKJV)

15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.

5 tips to help you grow in prayer.

1. Meditate the scriptures about God's Fatherly love for you.

2. Get to know the scriptures that promise answered prayer.

God wants to answer prayer. Kick out your religious traditions and expect answers.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

3. Find a private place, and begin respectfully to talk to God in conversational tones.

It takes time to learn to communicate with the Lord.

God is a Spirit being.

We are spirit beings.

Spirit beings communicate with Words.

God communicates with us through the Holy Spirit in our Spirit.

John 14:26 (NKJV)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The more acquainted we are with God's Word, the more we will hear Him speak to us!

In my early 20's I became a bit concerned that God was not speaking to me!

Others were saying that the Lord said this and that, but I heard nothing.

But I did have scripture come to my mind fairly regularly. And then it dawned on me that God WAS speaking to me - through His Word!

Matthew 6:6-8 (NKJV)

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Notice Jesus' prayer life:

Matthew 14:23 (NKJV)

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Luke 5:16 (NKJV)

So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 9:18 (NKJV)

And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

What do you consider your private place of prayer?

It may be an upstairs room away from everyone.

It may be a walk. I started out going on walks in my neighborhood so that I would not fall asleep while praying!

I like to kneel to pray. When I trained my body not to fall asleep, I started a habit of praying on my knees many years ago.

Recently, I started walking in the morning and praying. Find what works for you.

I encourage a solitary place and not just praying on the run, like on your commute to work. I do that too, but I also have solitary time.

The idea is to be with God without distractions.

Take a list with you of pressing items and issues.

Pray for authorities!

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Proverbs 21:1 (NKJV)

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Over a dozen years ago, I began praying for God to bring to light corruption in our US government. And it's happening now.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV)

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Pray for God's Kingdom to come to earth!

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Pray for individuals:

Believers:

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NKJV)

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NKJV)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Colossians 1:9-11 (NKJV)

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

For Christians out of fellowship with God:

Pray for the jealous love of God to draw them back to Him and to give them a desire to repent of their sins and wrong life choices.

James 4:5 (AMP)

Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love?

Exodus 20:5 (NCV)

You must not worship or serve any idol, because I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...

James 4:5 (BBE)

Or does it seem to you that it is for nothing that the holy Writings say, The spirit which God put into our hearts has a strong desire for us?

Pray for those who need Christ:

1) Ask God to draw them to Him:

John 6:44 (NLT)

For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.

John 6:65 (NLT)

Then He said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me."

2) Command Satan to take His hands off of their mind:

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV)

Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

3) Pray that people will cross their path to share Jesus with them:

Matthew 9:37-38 (NKJV)

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Susan and I pray together too, but we have our own solitary time as well.

The more frequently you talk to someone, the deeper the conversation. Closeness in fellowship with the Lord grows with frequency.

And times of silence don't bother you. Susan and I talk all the time, so when we're together and don't talk, it's ok.

4. Start talking to Him about your most pressing needs. Ask and expect Him to answer!

Start with thanksgiving and praise.

Psalms 100:4 (NKJV)

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Then just tell Him what is happening, how it concerns you, and ask Him to work it out!

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6 (PHILLIPS)

Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer, and the peace of God which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7 (PHILLIPS)

You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.

1 Peter 5:7 (AMP)

Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.

This is really the prayer of faith.

With the prayer of faith, you pray and expect that God at that moment has answered your prayer!

Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Whenever those personal things come to mind, remind the Lord of what you have asked for, and thank Him for doing it!

5. Keep an unconscious attitude of prayer, praise and thanksgiving throughout the day.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

I pray in the spirit under my breath when I'm in the grocery store, or working in the yard, or doing something around the house. The idea is to stay in fellowship with God your Father all day long!

Smith Wigglesworth

I don't usually pray more than 30 minutes, but I never go more than 30 minutes without praying!

- 1. Meditate the scriptures about God's Fatherly love for you.**
- 2. Get to know the scriptures that promise answered prayer.**
- 3. Find a private place, and begin respectfully to talk to God in conversational tones.**
- 4. Start talking to Him about your most pressing needs. Ask and expect Him to answer!**
- 5. Keep an unconscious attitude of prayer, praise and thanksgiving throughout the day.**

Action Points:

1. Is your prayer life growing, or has it remained about the same?

2. Can you easily approach God as your Father?
3. Do you expect answers when you pray?
4. Do you seek to keep an unconscious attitude of prayer going throughout your day?