

I. A SIMPLE PRAYER

- A. During a violent storm at sea, a ship's engine failed and the vessel began drifting toward rocks. Panic spread. One elderly believer quietly knelt on deck and prayed aloud, "Lord, we have done all we can. Now we trust You to do what only You can." Minutes later, the wind shifted just enough to push the ship clear of the rocks. By morning, the crew was safe in harbor.

1. When asked later why he prayed so calmly, the man replied, "I didn't pray because I was afraid. I prayed because **God listens—and storms obey Him whether they want to or not.**"

II. POWERFUL QUOTES ON PRAYER

- A. "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; **prayer is the greater work.**"-E.M. BOUNDS
- B. "The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization."-Andrew Murray
- C. "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying."-Samuel Chadwick

III. WHAT IS PRAYER?

- A. **Prayer is the line of communication between God and man. It is relational before it is functional.**

1. ***"The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend." -Ex 33:11***

- B. **In the most simple definition's- Prayer is a conversation between God and man. It's a two way exchange shaped by not just speaking to God but also listening to God.**

1. ***"Call Me and I will answer you." -Jeremiah 33:3***

- C. **Prayer is one of the greatest demonstrations of humility and dependence on God.**

- D. **Prayer is the fastest way to activate our faith and access the throne room of God**

1. ***16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.-Heb 4:16***

E. Prayer is transformational. It changes us before it changes our circumstances.

1. *He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. -Lk 9:28-29*

IV. WHY WE PRAY?

A. Primarily we pray to fellowship and commune with God. Prayer is **mostly relational**, not a religious duty, or a list to go through.

1. *The goal of prayer is connecting with **God Himself**. not just getting answers from Him*

B. We pray because God is worthy of our time, attention, and affection.

C. We pray to receive forgiveness **and renewal**. Prayer keeps the heart tender and the conscience clean. Prayer restores **intimacy**, not salvation.

1. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive.” (1 John 1:9)*

D. We pray to align ourselves with God’s will and purposes

1. Prayer is not bending God to our plans, but aligning our hearts with His.

a) *“Your kingdom come, Your will be done.” (Matthew 6:10)*

E. We pray because it’s a weapon of warfare in the ongoing battle. (Eph 6:18)

F. We pray because Jesus did, the early church did daily, and history is filled with stories of the power of prayer.

V. WHAT DOES PRAYER ACTUALLY DO?

A. CHANGES US

1. Prayer mostly changes us which then will change the way we see our circumstances

B. CHANGES CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Prayer aligns our circumstances with God’s will and accesses the grace and blessing to change negative ones.

C. CHANGES PEOPLE

1. Interceding for others releases the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

VI. TEN FOUNDATIONS OF PRAYER

A. THE NEW BIRTH

1. New birth gives us access to God.

a) *For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.-Eph 2:18*

2. God hears the prayer of those who are in relationship with Him. **Only those made alive by the Spirit truly pray.** Religious people may recite prayers—but **children of God cry out.**

a) *The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.-Prov 15:21*

B. REVELATION OF GOD

1. Prayer always starts with God not us. Fervent prayer flows from knowing God and His character, not just knowing about God

a) *for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.-Heb 11:6*

(1) Prayer collapses when God becomes small

2. When God is reduced to an idea, prayer becomes mechanical. When prayer flows from awe, wonder, a fascinated heart, and the fear of the Lord it becomes worshipful instead of duty and guilt driven.

a) *People don't quit praying because it doesn't work; they quit because **God isn't real to them in prayer.***

C. REVELATION OF OUR IDENTITY

1. Prayer that is sustainable longterm must flow from understanding who we are to God and our voices move His affections towards us.

a) **We pray with confidence because we are His children, we pray with affection because we are His bride, and we pray with authority because we have total access to the Holy of Holies as a Kingdom of Priests.**

D. FAITH IN GOD

1. Faith in God is the engine to a fervent effective prayer life and produces a prayer life pleasing to Him

- a) *6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him,*
- b) *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.-Mrk 11:24*

E. LIFE OF WORSHIP

1. Worship reorients the heart. When we worship, we see God as He is, holy, beautiful, worthy. That vision naturally gives birth to prayer. We don't pray harder; we pray clearer.

- a) Adoration awakens desire, humility, and trust—the soil where prayer grows.
- b) Worship sustains prayer. Music and adoration keep prayer from becoming dry, mechanical, or performance-based.
- c) Worship lifts our eyes; prayer opens our mouths.

(1) 25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"-Mt. 15:25

F. INTIMACY WITH GOD

1. We spend time talking with those we love.

- a) *7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.-Jn 15:7*

G. LIFE IN GOD'S WORD

1. The bible gives us language to our prayers. It trains our voice in prayer and aligns our prayers with His revealed will.

- a) *"The Bible is not only God's Word to us; it is the vocabulary He gives us to speak back to Him."*
- b) *The more scripture shapes your mind, the more scripture shapes your prayers."*

(1) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.-1 John 5:14

H. A LIFESTYLE BEHIND PRAYER

1. A life of holiness and obedience positions us to ask whatever we desire.
 - a) *22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. -JN 3:22*
 - b) *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. -James 5:16*

I. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

1. *7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.-1 Peter 3:7*
2. *23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.-Mt 5:23-24*

J. FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Spirit doesn't just assist us in prayer, He ignites it! He helps us to pray God's perfect will even when we don't know what to pray.
 - a) *26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.-Rom. 8:26*

K. SPIRITUAL HUNGER

1. Just as the body needs food to live, the soul needs God to thrive. When hunger is real, you don't need reminders—you seek food.
2. When spiritual hunger is real, you need to be told to pray because prayer becomes instinctive.

