



## The Power of Prayer - 13

### (1) WHAT IS THE RESULT OF PRIVATE PRAYER?

---

---

---

*Matthew 6:6*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 34:15-19; 86:5-7; 50:15; 55:16; Isaiah 65:24; Hebrews 4:16; Romans 8:26, 27; 10:12; James 5:16

We should pray in the family circle, but above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is what gives life to our soul. It is impossible for our soul to prosper if we do not pray. Family prayers or prayers in public are by themselves not enough. When you are alone let your

soul be laid open to the inspecting eye of God. Secret prayer is to be heard only by our prayer-hearing God. No curious ears are to hear our requests. In secret prayer the soul is free from excitement and distracting influences around us. Calmly, but earnestly, our prayer will reach out to God. Sweet and sure will be the effect flowing back from Him who sees in secret, and whose ear is open to hear the prayer coming from our heart. By calm and simple faith our soul touches God and gathers rays of heavenly light which strengthens and keeps it going in the battle against Satan. God is our tower of strength.

Pray in private, and as you go about your daily work, often let your heart be uplifted to God. This is how Enoch

## The Power of Prayer

---

walked with Him. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before God's throne of grace. Satan cannot overcome one whose heart is fixed upon God.

### (2) WHAT INSTRUCTION IN THIS VERSE REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER?

---

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

**Related Texts:** 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 145:18, 19; Jeremiah 29:12, 13

There is not a time or place where it is not proper to offer up a prayer to God. There is nothing that can keep us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. When we are in the crowds on the street or in the middle of a business meeting, we may send up a request to God and plead for heaven's guidance. That is what Nehemiah did when he made his request before King Artaxerxes. A special connection may be found wherever we are. We should have the door of our heart open all the time and our invitation going up that Jesus may come and stay as a heavenly guest in the soul.

Even when there is an ungodly and corrupt atmosphere around us, we don't have to breathe its poison. We can live in the pure air of heaven. We may close every door to impure and unholy thoughts by lifting our soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer. Those whose hearts are willing to receive the support and blessing of God will walk in a holier atmosphere than that of earth and will always be in touch with heaven.

### (3) WHEN WE ARE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH CHRIST, WHAT IS THE RESULT?

---

---

*Isaiah 26:3*

**Related Texts:** Philippians 4:6, 7; John 14:27; 16:33; Psalm 9:10; 57:1; Jeremiah 17:7, 8

We need to have a clearer view of Jesus and a fuller understanding of the value of eternal life. The beauty of holiness is to fill the hearts of God's children, but for this to take place, we should look for a divine revealing of heavenly things.

We should let our soul be drawn out and upward so that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere. We can choose to keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him in the same natural way that the flower turns to the sun.

### (4) WHAT PROMISE DOES GOD SO GRACIOUSLY EXTEND TO THE BROKEN HEARTED?

---

*Psalm 147:3*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 51:17; 34:18; Isaiah 57:15; 61:1; Hosea 6:1

Take your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot weight Him down; you cannot make Him weary. He is the One who numbers the hairs of your head and He is not unresponsive to the needs of His children. "The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even more by telling Him of them. We should take to Him in prayer everything that puzzles the mind. Nothing is too great for

Him to bear. He holds up worlds, and rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no part of our lives that is too dark for Him to see, nor is a problem too difficult for Him to solve. No hardship can come upon the least of His children, no anxiety that troubles the soul, no joy give us cheer, or no sincere prayer from our lips that fails to touch His heart of love. The relationship between God and each one of us is as close and as secure as if there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watch care, or another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.

**(5) IN WHOSE NAME SHOULD WE PRAY?**

---

---

*John 15:16*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 28:18, 19; Romans 1:5; Acts 2:38; Malachi 1:11

Jesus said, "Ye shall ask in My name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you." John 16:26, 27. But to pray in the name of Jesus is much more than just a mere mention of His name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while believing in His promises, trusting in His grace, and doing His works.

**(6) WHAT ACTS OF PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY SHOULD BE COMBINED WITH OUR PRAYERS AND WORSHIP?**

---

---

*James 1:27*

---

---

*James 2:16*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 25:34-46; 1 John 3:17-19; 1 Timothy 1:5; Job 29:12, 13; Isaiah 1:17; 58:6-11; Galatians 5:6; 6:9, 10

God does not want any of us to become hermits or monks and hide from the world in order to devote ourselves to acts of worship. The life must be like Christ's life, which was shared between the privacy of the mountains and the multitude of people. Someone who does nothing but pray will soon stop praying, or his prayers will become the same ones over and over. When people take themselves out of social life, away from the world of Christian duty and cross carrying, when they stop working earnestly for the Lord, who worked earnestly for them, they don't have anything to pray about and have no purpose for their devotion. Their prayers become personal and selfish. They cannot pray about the needs of humanity or the strengthening of the kingdom of Christ.

**(7) WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP?**

---

---

*Hebrews 10:25*

**Related Texts:** 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 18:20; Acts 2:42; 20:7

We are the ones who will lose when we neglect the privilege of coming together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His Word lose their clearness and importance in our minds. Our hearts are no longer learning nor awakened to the cleansing power of God's Word. Separating ourselves from other Christians will weaken our sympathy for others. If we stay to ourselves we are not doing the job that God planned for us to do. We will eventually lose our spirituality. The right development of the social

## The Power of Prayer

---

part of our nature helps us to sympathize with others and this strengthens and develops us for the service of God.

When we as Christians spend time telling each other about the love of God and the precious truths of God's saving plan for us, our hearts are refreshed. When we have fellowship we are learning more about our heavenly Father and are receiving a renewed glimpse of His grace. Our desire grows to tell the world about His love, and as we do this our own hearts are warmed and encouraged. When we think and talk more about Jesus and less about ourselves, we have a lot more of His presence with us.

### **(8) TO ABIDE IN PEACE, WHERE SHOULD OUR THOUGHTS AND AFFECTIONS CENTER?**

---

*Isaiah 26:3, 4*

---

*Colossians 3:2*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 57:19-21; John 14:27; Psalm 91:14; 119:36-40; Proverbs 23:5; Matt. 16:23; Romans 8:4-6; 1 John 2:15

If we would just think about God as often as we have signs of His care for us we would always have Him in our thoughts and we would enjoy talking about Him and giving Him praise. We talk of passing things of this world because we are interested in them. We talk about our friends because we love them. Our joys and our sorrows are connected with them, yet we have much greater reason to love God than to love our earthly friends. It should be the most natural thing in the world to put Him first in all our thoughts, to talk of His goodness and tell others of His power. The rich gifts He has given to us were not meant to absorb our thoughts

and love so much that we would have nothing to give to God. They are to constantly remind us of Him and to bring us closer with ties of love and gratefulness to our heavenly Father who provides for us. Our thoughts tend to stay close to this earth. Let us look up to the open door of the sanctuary in heaven, where the light of the glory from God shines in the face of Jesus, who "is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him." Hebrews 7:25.

### **(9) WHAT IMPORTANT ELEMENT SHOULD OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE?**

---

*Colossians 4:2*

**Related Texts:** Colossians 2:7; 3:15, 17; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We need to praise God more "for His goodness, and His wonderful works to the children of men." Psalms 107:8. Our daily devotional time should not primarily consist of asking and receiving. We should not always be thinking of what we want and never think about the blessings we receive. We certainly do not pray too much and we do not show the appreciation we should to our Heavenly Father. We are always receiving God's mercies but give Him very little thanks in return! How little we praise Him for what He has done for us.

### **(10) WHAT WILL FLOW FROM THE HEART OF THOSE WHO JOYFULLY DEDICATE THEIR LIFE AND MEANS TO CHRIST?**

---

*Deuteronomy 12:7*

**Related Texts:** Deuteronomy 26:11; Psalm 111:1-5; 9:1; 103:1-5

In times past the Lord told Israel the importance of serving Him with a glad heart. The things we do for the glory of God should be done with cheerfulness, with songs of praise and thanksgiving, not with sadness and gloom.

Our God is a tender and merciful Father. Living for Him should not be looked upon as doing something that brings sadness or distress to our heart. We should consider it a pleasure to worship the Lord and to help with His work. God doesn't want His children, for whom such a great pardon has been given, to act as if He is a hard slave driver. He is our best Friend, and when we worship Him, He counts on being with us to bless, comfort and fill our hearts with joy and love. The Lord wants His children to feel comforted while doing His service and to find more pleasure than hardship in His work. He wants those who come to worship Him to carry away with them precious thoughts of His care and love. When we dwell on His goodness we will be happy in our daily life and have the grace to be honest and faithful in all things.

**(11) WHEN OUR THOUGHTS, CONVERSATIONS, AND PRAYERS PRAISE AND GLORIFY GOD, WHAT WILL BE REVEALED?**

---

*Psalm 50:23*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 50:14, 15; 85:9; Romans 15:6, 9; 1 Peter 2:9

Our thoughts should be centered around the cross and His death there for us. This should be the main theme on our minds, the center of what we talk about, and our most joyful feeling. We should keep in our thoughts every blessing we receive from God. When we come to understand His great love we should be willing to trust everything in the hands that were nailed to the cross for us.

**(12) BECAUSE OF OUR RECOGNITION OF GOD'S GOODNESS, WHAT SHOULD ALWAYS BE ON OUR LIPS?**

---

*Psalm 107:21, 22*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 107:15, 31, 32; 34:3; 92:1, 2; 147:1; Isaiah 63:7

Our soul may be raised nearer to heaven when we praise Him. God is worshiped with song and music in the courts of heaven above, and as we give Him our thanks we are imitating the worship of the heavenly angels. Let us, in the spirit of reverent joy, come before our Creator with "thanksgiving and the voice of melody" Isaiah 51:3.

*I realize the need of a constant connection with God through both private and public prayer in my day-to-day experience with Him.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I understand the importance of including praise and thanksgiving to God for His mercy and goodness in my life as I pray.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am thankful for the privilege to come before God's throne through the blessing of prayer and claim His awesome power in my life and in the lives of those for whom I pray.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**