

Prayer and Intimacy With God

Friday Night



















What Is Prayer?

- Oswald Chambers, *If You Will Ask*
- “Prayer is an interruption of personal ambition. No person who is busy has time to pray. What will suffer is the life of God in him which is nourished not by food but by prayer.”
- “Prayer is not a way to get things from God but to get to know God.”



What is Prayer?

- “The life of Christ is nourished in me by refusing to worry over anything, for worry means there is something over which I cannot have my own way, and in reality is personal irritation with God.”
- “The secret of Christian quietness is not indifference, but the knowledge that God is my Father, He loves me, I shall never think of anything He will forget, and worry becomes an impossibility.”
- “It is not so much that prayer changes things, as that prayer changes us, and then we change things.”

My Story: Journey To Intimacy With Him

Saturday Morning



Beginnings

- Looking back on my life, I see that he chose me for relationship & created in me the power to ask Him
- John 15:16 (NKJV)
- You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.



Beginnings

- Growing up years: self made, self motivated, religious but my heart? Mark 7:6-7
- He pursued me
- He caught me (believer not a follower yet)

Broken Years

- First, built up- college, law school, career, family life etc
- Then, broken down: work as an idol
- Wandering, struggles and suffering: work, marriage, ministry, finances. Lack of focus, discipline, comittment to the Lord



Prayers of Desperation

- Oswald Chambers, *If You Will Ask*, p.13: “Only when a man flounders beyond any grip of himself and cannot understand things does he really begin to pray...he prays without reasoning....He does not think things out... he simply blurts it out.”
- Where are You!
- Who are You!
- 3 am wrestling with God: angry, hurt, spilling my guts, commitment to stay in the battle and pursue Him, gritting my teeth





Desperate Praying

- Can I really seek You, find You, know You?
- Jer. 29:13 TLB: You will find me when you seek me, if you look for me in earnest.
- Rom. 8:26- groanings
- Ps. 51:17- uses suffering, even self inflicted wounds
- Ps. 61:1-2- He is the Rock





Re-Building Years: Slowly Becoming a Follower

- Turned to Him, committed to seek Him daily (in my chair with the roof caving in). His promises:
- Deut. 4:29 (NKJV)
- But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- Heb. 11:6 (NKJV)
- But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Learning to Pray

- He is knowable: Gen. 1:26
- He wants me to pursue Him: Matt:6:33, Amos 5:4, Acts 17:27

Learning to Pray- Jesus' Example for me

- Matt 26- transparency, honesty, being myself before God
- 37 He took Peter with him and Zebedee's two sons James and John, and began to be filled with anguish and despair.
- 38 Then he told them, "My soul is crushed with horror and sadness to the point of death . . . stay here . . . stay awake with me."
- 39 He went forward a little, and fell face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want your will, not mine.

Learning to Pray

- Pray in secret/solitude
- Matt. 6:6 : But when you pray, go away by yourself, all alone, and shut the door behind you and pray to your Father secretly, and your Father, who knows your secrets, will reward you.
- Early
- Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.



Learning to Pray

- Solitude/withdraw to pray/separate from the world
- Mark 6:46 New King James Version (NKJV)
46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray
- Luke 5:16 New King James Version (NKJV)
16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Learning to Pray

- He knows what I need; answers based on His redemption and not my effort
- 7-8 “Don’t recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him

Learning to Pray

- Acknowledge His majesty, supremacy, sovereignty over and will for my life- “Hallowed”
- Matt 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray:
- Our Father in heaven,
- Hallowed be Your name.
- Your kingdom come.
- Your will be done
- On earth as it is in heaven.



Learning to Pray

- Thanks for meeting my needs
- 11 Give us this day our daily bread.
- Reminder of my forgiveness b/c solely of His grace at the Cross, and I cannot withhold from others
- 12 And forgive us our debts,
- As we forgive our debtors

Learning to Pray

- Pray for my persecutors
- Luke 6:28 (NKJV)
- 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

Learning to Pray

- Persistence
- Luke 18:1-8 (NKJV)
- The Parable of the Persistent Widow
- 18 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor [a]regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, [b]‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

Learning to Pray

- 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will [avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.] ”
- 6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.

Learning to Pray

- Effort-great drops of blood
- Luke 22:44 (NKJV)
- 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground

What does my prayer life look like?

- Has to be priority, consistent
- Early, separate from the world- as much mental as physical- before I see another human face
- Get alone, get away, get in nature
- The Word, quietude, listening, journaling
- Pray scripture back to Him: example Philip. 4:6-7
- Psalms are great expressions of the heart
- Unhurried- waiting on Him. Ps. 46:10

My prayer life

- Learning to listen to His quiet prompts: application of the Word, thoughts of people I need to call, pray for, pursue, forgive, serve etc
- Use phone for reminders
- Daily “to do” list at work: pray over it, do spiritual things first (Matt 6:33)
- Habit: R-P-T. 1 Thess. 5:16-18



CH Spurgeon's Top 15 Tips for Prayer

15 Tips for a Deep and Effective Prayer Life

- 1. Be specific in your asking.**
- 2. You must pray in faith.**
- 3. Fight distractions that keep you from prayer.**
- 4. Focus on abiding in Christ for more fruit in prayer.**
- 5. Pray the promises of God.**
- 6. Don't give up in prayer—keep praying.**
- 7. If you struggle getting started in prayer, read the Bible first and respond to what God says.**

8. Regularly confess your sins.
9. Don't worry about praying eloquent prayers.
10. When we don't feel like praying, pray for help.
11. Pray humbly.
12. Dedicate yourself to prayer for a deeper spiritual life and more useful ministry.
13. Pray without ceasing.
14. Pray big prayers.
15. Cultivate a grateful heart.

Discussion Time

Saturday Afternoon

He's Maturing and Using Me

- Becoming surrendered: Rom. 12:1
- BELIEVING that He hears me and I can influence Him (?!) Taking Him at His Word! Choice as an act of my will (B. Ritter- "Andy you know what to do!")
- Jer. 33:3
- Ps.4:3
- Matt 7:7-11
- Jas. 5:16

Growing Up

- Transformation and new identity: Rom 12:1-2, Col 1:27-28
- Stop people pleasing, start God pleasing:
- [Galatians 6:14-16](#)
- For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. (The Msg)

Growing Up

- His heart for people infusing mine: Ezek 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9
- AWAKE to Hurting and lost all around me!
- Ps 73: 17 Then one day I went into God's sanctuary to meditate and thought about the future of these evil men. 18 What a slippery path they are on— suddenly God will send them sliding over the edge of the cliff and down to their destruction: 19 an instant end to all their happiness, an eternity of terror. 20 Their present life is only a dream! They will awaken to the truth as one awakens from a dream of things that never really were! (TLB)

Growing Up

- John 17:21-24 oneness with Him, and He will not quit until He achieves this (Oswald)
- 21 My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as you and I are, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.
- ...Father, I want them with me—these you've given me—so that they can see my glory.



Growing Up

- Attitude of worship as I pray/He is giving me a heart of desire to worship with my heart and mind
- John 4:23-24 (NKJV)
- 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth

Growing Up

- Desire to be with Him
- Psalm 27:4-6 (TLB)
- 4 The one thing I want from God, the thing I seek most of all, is the privilege of meditating in his Temple, living in his presence every day of my life, delighting in his incomparable perfections and glory. 5 There I'll be when troubles come. He will hide me. He will set me on a high rock 6 out of reach of all my enemies. Then I will bring him sacrifices and sing his praises with much joy.



Answered Prayer

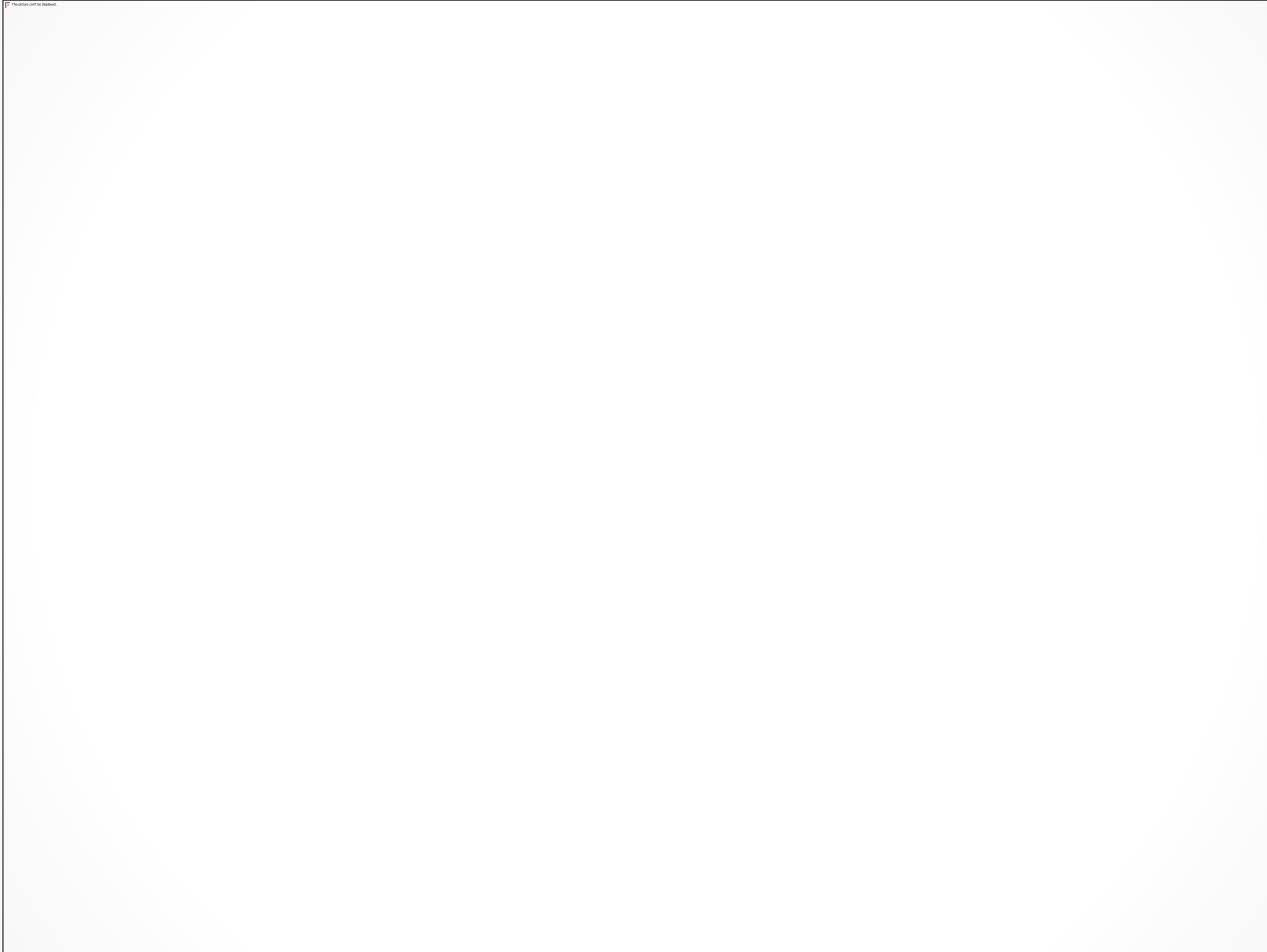


Give God A Chance to Work

- Watchman Nee (1903-1972, famous Chinese evangelist)

“Our prayers lay the track down which God’s power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, His power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.”

Tracks for Prayer



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Mi Corazon, My Heart
Belongs to You



My prayer for you...

Ephesians 3:18-19 Living Bible (TLB)

18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

The End