

The Power of Prayer

Jesus' comment in John 15:5 is a constant reminder of why I, as a follower of Jesus, and we, as a church, need to earnestly and continually seek God in prayer: "... *Apart from Me, you can do nothing.*" Prayer is one way to practically express our reliance upon God. We need His enabling power, His wisdom, His all-sufficient grace, His regenerating work in the lives of lost people to whom we are witnessing. I recently came across a memorable quote by W.S. Bowden that makes a great connection between our need and God's sufficiency: "*Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.*"

In setting some goals for our church for the year ahead, the Elders identified one goal to be: increasing our personal and corporate involvement in prayer. Toward that end, we have asked Fred Perez to serve as Prayer Coordinator. Fred doesn't just talk about prayer—he believes that God is a rewarder of those who seek Him and devotes himself to prayer. (Col. 4:2) Rather than making prayer a guilt-inducing duty, let's trust God to show us our need of Him and His unlimited resources. Let's make the year ahead a year of progress as we admit our need of God's unlimited resources and our poverty. What can be a more important and beneficial investment of our energies and time as Christians? As Joseph Scriven wrote in the familiar hymn, **What A Friend We Have In Jesus**, "*What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!*"

Pastor Mark Musser.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

And it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, that when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray? --Luke xi. 1.

The disciples had been with Christ, and seen Him pray. They had learnt to understand something of the connection between His wondrous life in public, and His secret life of prayer. They had learnt to believe in Him as a Master in the art of prayer--none could pray like Him. And so they came to Him with the request, Lord, teach us to pray. And in after years they would have told us that there were few things more wonderful or blessed that He taught them than His lessons on prayer.

And now still it comes to pass, as He is praying in a certain place, that disciples who see Him thus engaged feel the need of repeating the same request, Lord, teach us to pray. 'As we grow in the Christian life, the thought and the faith of the Beloved Master in His never-failing intercession becomes ever more

(Article excerpted from With Christ in the School of Prayer, by Andrew Murray taken from <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/murray/prayer.html>. A PDF version of this article in its entirety can be downloaded from this site.)

"God will answer your prayers better than you think. Of course, one will not always get exactly what he has asked for....We all have sorrows and disappointments, but one must never forget that, if commended to God, they will issue in good....His own solution is far better than any we could conceive." - Fanny J. Crosby

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

One online dictionary defines prayer as:

1. A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God.
2. A religious service, esp. a regular one, at which people gather in order to pray together.
3. Synonyms- request- entreaty- petition- plea.

Jesus notably said, regarding the priority of prayer, in Matt.21:13- "my house shall be a house of prayer, and in Mark 6:46, we see Jesus practicing the art of prayer when it says of him, "He departed into a mountain to pray".

In Mathew 21:13 Jesus is referring to the temple of God in Jerusalem. He reminds His hearers that God's temple was meant to be a place of prayer to God. The Temple was built to meet with God in all aspects of prayer. In Mark 6:46 Jesus dismisses the

precious, and the hope of being Like Christ in His intercession gains an attractiveness before unknown. And as we see Him pray, and remember that there is none who can pray like Him, and none who can teach like Him, we feel the petition of the disciples, Lord, teach us to pray, is just what we need. And as we think how all He is and has, how He Himself is our very own, how He is Himself our life, we feel assured that we have but to ask, and He will be delighted to take us up into closer fellowship with Himself, and teach us to pray even as He prays.


Come, my brothers! Shall we not go to the Blessed Master and ask Him to enroll our names too anew in that school which He always keeps open for those who long to continue their studies in the Divine art of prayer and intercession? Yes, let us this very day say to the Master, as they did of old, Lord, teach us to pray. As we meditate, we shall find each word of the petition we bring to be full of meaning.

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people and leaves into the mountain to be alone with God the Father in prayer.

These are two modes or locations for prayer set before us by Jesus' example. One is corporate prayer and the other individual, alone with God, one on one. By experience I have found the later the most difficult to practice regularly. Jesus made both a priority.

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And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

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Most of us get to church often, so we give ourselves a passing grade regardless of how we pray. Our challenge while together is to consciously participate together in prayer. Outside of our corporate worship we should then follow Jesus' second example and leave to that quiet place each day to be with God alone, one on one.

Find that quiet place this week. Make it a priority. Dismiss all the things that beg you for their attention so you can fellowship with God alone. There is an effort in doing this. Jesus had to LEAVE and GO into the mountain. I take it that there was a little hike involved. He wasn't passive about His prayer time with the Father but very deliberate. May we be as deliberate and covetous over our prayer time with God, together and individually. After all, He has been deliberate over us

in giving His Son for us to reconcile us to Himself. Let Us Pray!

I hope that this meditation is helpful to encourage you our Church family at New Village. In the months to come I am looking forward to building upon this first devotional that, by God's grace, these thoughts can be used to build us all in our prayer life as we press on together to know the Lord. May we be a people not only of the Good Book, but a people of prayer. I am seeking the Lord, along with our Pastor, Elders and Deacons as to how to be used to make this happen.

By His Grace only,
Fred Perez
Prayer Life Coordinator



"We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all. Most of us would prefer, however, to spend our time doing something that will get immediate results. We don't want to wait for God to resolve matters in His good time because His idea of 'good time' is seldom in sync with ours."

- Oswald Chambers

"I think the reason we sometimes have the false sense that God is so far away is because that is where we have put him. We have kept him at a distance, and then when we are in need and call on him in prayer, we wonder where he is. He is exactly where we left him."

- Ravi Zacharias, *Has Christianity Failed You?*

Approach to God in Prayer



O Lord, in prayer I launch far out into the eternal world, and on that broad ocean my soul triumphs over all evils on the shores of mortality. Time, with its gay amusements and cruel disappointments never appears so inconsiderate as then.

In prayer I see myself as nothing; I find my heart going after Thee with intensity, and long with vehement thirst to live to Thee. Blessed be the strong gales of the Spirit that speed me on my way to the New Jerusalem.

In prayer all things here below vanish, and nothing seems important but holiness of heart and the salvation

of others.

In prayer all my worldly cares, fears, anxieties disappear, and are of as little significance as a puff of wind.

In prayer my soul inwardly exults with lively thoughts at what Thou art doing for Thy church, and I long that Thou shouldst get Thyself a great name from sinners returning to Zion.

In prayer I am lifted above the frowns and flatteries of life, and taste heavenly joys; entering into the eternal world I can give myself to Thee with all my heart, to be Thine for ever.

In prayer I can place all my concerns in Thy hands, to be entirely at Thy disposal, having no will or interest of my own.

In prayer I can intercede for my friends, ministers, sinners, the church, Thy kingdom to come, with greatest freedom, ardent hopes, as a son to his father, as a lover to the beloved.

Help me to be all prayer and never to cease praying.

(Taken from *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*, Banner of Truth, 2007).

Biographical Sketch



Andrew Murray (9 May 1828 – 18 January 1917) was a South African writer, teacher, and Christian pastor. Murray considered missions to be "the chief end of the church." Murray authored over 240 books, one of his most influential books, still influencing thousands today, is "With Christ in the School of Prayer."

Recommended Readings:

The following books are just a few of the recommendations on readings in the subject of Prayer. You can order any of these from any online book seller such as Amazon. At least two of these books can also be found on the website of Banner of Truth, a trusted website with many articles and books on prayer, and many other spiritual topics.

1. With Christ in the School of Prayer by Andrew Murray.
2. E.M. Bounds on Prayer by E.M. Bounds.
3. A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers by D.A. Carson.
4. Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions by Arthur G. Bennett.

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 Bible Study and Prayer @ 7pm Pioneer Girls @ 7pm	3 Women's Bible Study @ 7:30pm	4 Fusion Youth Group Ignite Youth Group	5
6 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M. Worship Service @ 11 a.m. Christianity Explored	7	8	9 Bible Study and Prayer @ 7pm Pioneer Girls @ 7pm	10	11 Fusion Youth Group Ignite Youth Group	12 Men In The Morning @ 9am. Church-wide Bonfire @ 7p.m.
13 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M. Worship Service @ 11 a.m.	14	15	16 Bible Study and Prayer @ 7pm Pioneer Girls @ 7pm	17 Women's Bible Study @ 7:30pm	18 Fusion Youth Group Ignite Youth Group	19
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