

PRAY FIRST

INSPIRATIONAL PRAYER QUOTES

Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life. Jonathan Edwards

We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on our difficulties. Oswald Chambers

If God has granted all the silly prayers I've made in my life, where should I be now?

We must lay before him what is in us; not what ought to be in us." C.S. Lewis

"Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way I want God to act, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge". Philip Yancey

"I believe that life with God should seem more like a friendship than duty. Prayer includes moments of ecstasy and also dullness, mindless distraction and acute concentration, flashes of joy and bouts of irritation. In other words, prayer has features in common with all relationships that matter". Philip Yancey

"Prayer helps correct myopia, my self-perspective and self-centeredness. I keep reversing roles, thinking of ways in which God should serve me, rather than vice versa". Philip Yancey

"Why pray? It has become much more than me offering a shopping list of requests to God. It has become a realignment of everything. I pray to restore my perspective – to see myself, others and the world through the eyes of God, and to see reality from God's point of view. Philip Yancey

"The main purpose of prayer is not to make life easier, nor to gain magical powers, but to know God. I need God more than anything I might get from God". Philip Yancey

We can best imagine the world not as a state governed by a potentate, but by a Creator; as a work of art, something like a play, both created and in the process of being created. The Playwright allows his characters, through their actions and through their prayers, to affect the play itself, then incorporates all into the final result." C.S. Lewis

"Prayer is the power by which that comes to pass which otherwise would not take place". Andrew Murray

"In adoration we enter the rarefied air of selfless devotion; we ask for nothing but to cherish Him; we seek nothing but His exaltation". Richard Foster

"When I give thanks, my thoughts still circle about myself to some extent. But in praise, my soul ascends to self-forgetting adoration, seeing and praising only the majesty and power of God, His grace and redemption". Ole Hallesby

“It occurs to me, thinking about prayer, that most of the time I get the direction wrong, starting ‘downstream’ with me, and my world. When I shift direction, I realize that God already cares about my concerns – my uncle’s cancer, world peace, a broken family, a rebellious teenager – more than I do. Grace, like water, descends to the lowest part. When I begin with God, I realize He is sovereign over all that happens on earth, and invites everyone to know Him and His love. This new starting point not only re-centers my prayer, but refocuses my life, and then I ask what part I can play in God’s work here on earth”.

Philip Yancey

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long”. Ps. 146:1-2

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth”. Ps. 34:1

“Be still and know that I am God” Ps. 46:10

‘Be still’, something that modern life conspires against. However, I must carve out time and allow God to nourish my life. It develops a habit of attention, refocus. In that focus, all else comes into focus. In that rift in my routine, the universe falls into alignment. Stillness prepares me for the second part, ‘know that I am God’, something the world also conspires against; but something we desperately need to know. Because He is God, I don’t have to be. Phillip Yancey

“Too often we think of prayer as a serious chore, something that must be scheduled around other appointments, shoehorned in among other pressing activities. We miss the point. God is inviting us to take a break. We can stop doing all those important things we have to do in our capacity as God, and leave it to Him to be God. Prayer allows me to admit my failures, weaknesses, and limitations to One who responds to human vulnerability with infinite mercy. To let God be God, of course, means climbing down from my own executive chair of control. I must let God ‘uncreate’ the world I have so carefully fashioned to further my ends and advance my cause, and allow Him to ‘create’ a world in us where He is not only in control, He is the builder, and invites me into His work.” Simon Tugwell

“Search me, O God, and know my heart....see if there is any offensive way in me” Ps 139:23, 24 I cannot receive healing unless I accept God’s diagnosis of my wounded state. God already knows who we are; we are the ones who must find a way to come to terms with our true state, and acknowledge that to Him. I need God’s all-knowing help in rooting out hidden offenses like selfishness, pride, deceit, lack of compassion.

“Whenever I get depressed by a lack of spiritual progress, I realize that my very dismay is a sign of progress. I am coming to God as I am”. Walter Wangerin, Jr.

“Whether it takes the form of words or not, does not mean anything to God, only to ourselves. Only he who is helpless can truly pray” Ole Hallesby

“Prayer forces me to catch sight of my true state. To pray is to walk in the full light of God, and to say simply, without holding back, ‘I am human and you are God’. At that moment, conversion occurs, the restoration of the true relationship. Prayer is the declaration of dependence on God”. Henri Nouwen

“The basic human problem is that everyone believes there is a God and I am it”. Daniel Hawk

“Jesus was the ultimate grateful person. The signature written across his life was the prayer, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth’” Luke 10:21 Richard Foster

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever” Ps. 106:1

“Here, I believe, is the key to understanding what is most personal in prayer. We do not pray to tell God what he does not know, nor to remind him of things he has forgotten. He already cares for the things we pray about. He has simply been waiting for us to care about them with Him. When we pray, we stand by God and look with him toward those people and problems we are praying about”. Tim Stafford

“We speak to Him regarding the issues of life as we speak to our most intimate friends – so that we can commune together in love”. Tim Stafford

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you”. Having shared the knowledge, Jesus invites us to partner with God in His work here on earth.

“Prayer is keeping company with God”. Clement of Alexandria

In order to be effective, prayer has to be the first thing we do, not the last. Eugene Peterson

Prayer is the way we work our way out of the comfortable but cramped world of self and into the spacious world of God. Eugene Peterson

“Vending machine prayers sound like, ‘God, my marriage is a wreck. Fix my marriage. Make me happy with my spouse. Prayers in Jesus’ name sound like, ‘God my marriage needs your healing Spirit. Please transform me from the inside out and help me to love my wife. John Mark Comer

“Prayer is like waking up from a nightmare to reality. We laugh at what we took so seriously inside the dream. We realize that all is truly well. Of course, prayer can have the opposite effect; it can puncture illusions and show us we are in more spiritual danger than we thought.”

“God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knows.”

Pray when you're alone. Pray when you're with a lot of people. Pray when you're in small groups. Pray on your way in; pray on your way out. Pray in your closet, in your car, at your desk. Pray morning prayers, pray mealtime prayers, pray in between mealtimes. Pray fervently, expectantly, and un-self-consciously. Pray when you're burdened, worried, sick, or brokenhearted. Pray when you're soaring, setting records, or dancing on a mountaintop. Pray when you're up, and pray when you're down. Pray when you're healthy, when you're sick, when you feel like it, and when you don't. (Especially when you don't. Tim Keller

“If you lower the ambient noise of your life and listen expectantly for those whispers of God, your ears will hear them. And when you follow their lead, your world will be rocked.”
Bill Hybels

“Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.” Richard Foster

"God has created us to love and to be loved, and this is the beginning of prayer—to know that He loves me, that I have been created for greater things." Mother Teresa

Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instruments afterwards. Begin the day with the word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with him. Hudson Taylor

The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day is to have my soul happy in the LORD. George Muller

Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian. George Muller

Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God.

Learn to worship God as the God who does wonders, who wishes to prove in you that He can do something supernatural and divine.

Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.

If we prayed as much as we worried, we'd have a lot less to worry about. Give God your worries. Rick Warren

The man who would truly know God must give time to him. A.W. Tozer

What you live for shapes what you pray for. What you pray for shapes what you live for.

When we work, we work; when we pray, God works. Hudson Taylor

“Many people struggle to learn how to pray because they are focusing on praying, not God. Making prayer the center is like making *conversation* the center of family mealtime. In prayer, focusing on the conversation is like trying to drive while looking at the windshield instead of *through* it. It freezes us, making us unsure of where to go. Conversation is the only vehicle through which we experience one another. Consequently, prayer is not the center of this book. Getting to know a person, God, is the center.” – Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*