

Prayer – persistent and personal



The power and efficacy of persistent personal prayer to God our Father is vital. Daily life often sweeps us up in its busyness and those quiet times with the Father in prayer can be few and far between. As days and years pass us by, we can find those times we *do* come to God in prayer we find it hard to find words. It may be because of shame we feel in the face of our sin. We may wonder if God is listening.

The following collected thoughts on prayer come from various writers that will, God willing, help us to find those

words and bring us closer to our Father in heaven.

Prayer through examples

“The spirit of prayer is caught not taught. It is caught from the prayers of the faithful... and from the example of Jesus. There may be difficulties. Some find that they do not know what to pray for, or about. Yet the Father is the truest friend of all and we can reveal things to Him that could never be told to anyone else...

“Prayer can be silent or uttered and used anywhere and at any time: in a train or bus, when driving a car or walking to work; at home, in the office. Even when standing before a king in great distress. Psalm 102 speaks of such a moment...

Psalm 102v1-2 “O LORD, hear my prayer! Pay attention to my cry for help! Do not ignore me in my time of trouble! Listen to me!”

“We are allowed free speech with Him. We are allowed to talk with Him and to tell Him of our joys and anxieties; of our sorrows and our cares. No one need worry about the words to be used. The Father is more concerned with our motives... we can explain our problems to Him in the words and phrases we daily use.”

John Marshall

Consistent prayer

“The believer can rejoice always – precisely because he is always praying and always giving thanks. A life lived in faith is a continual prayer. Conversation with God does not require fixed locations, set times, or particular postures. Though it is quite impossible for us always to be uttering the words of prayer, it is possible and necessary that we should be always living in the spirit of prayer.

“Sporadic prayer is not sufficient for the urgent and recurring needs of today. The tendency to evil is with us always, and if we are not to succumb repeatedly to its power, God must always be with us too. Prayer and evil cannot live together; if one is present, the other must die. Obviously then it is not enough to call God into a situation where our own ingenuity has failed us, or where we feel particular need of comfort; we must so order our life that we are constantly in touch with God throughout our waking hours.

“... when the day is over we can bow before Him once more in the confidence that He is waiting to meet with us, more ready to hear than we are to speak. We shall rejoice in the certainty that He is offering us His blessing and fellowship in spite of our failures. We shall have sins to confess and forgiveness to seek in the name of His Son. There will be much to thank our Father for, so many to pray for, and a glorious hope to acknowledge gratefully. And thus refreshed we can lie down, knowing the peace of sins forgiven and the joy of a life surrendered to the grace of God.”

George Booker

1Thessalonians 5v16-18 “Always rejoice, **constantly pray**, in everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Pray anytime

"Prayer is not a ritual, but a way of life -- a constant conversation with God. Our thoughts include him all the time. We are not limited by time, subject or form. When we rethink things we realize there really is no limit on time for prayer. You can pray anytime of day. You can pray in the car. You can pray while taking a shower. You can pray before that important meeting. You can pray IN that important meeting! There is no limitation on the subject. Is God too busy to be included in even the smallest details of our life? Shouldn't we talk to him about everything. He knows how many hairs there are on our head; so why wouldn't He be concerned for the details of His children's day? It is not like He only has the time for the 'big' things!"

Kyle Tucker

Peter Collins
