

**“A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER”**  
What Should I Do?—Part 2

*Blessed be God,  
Who has not turned away my prayer  
Nor His lovingkindness from me.  
—Psalm 66:20*

**What we believe in our hearts will define how we live and who we become.**

To desire revival... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.

—A.W. Tozer

*In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house,  
and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.*

—Mark 1:35

**KEY IDEA: I pray to God to know Him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before Him.**

**Example 1 Key Point: Be yourself, be real. Don't try to imitate other Christians.**

There are two groups of people who can teach you the most about praying:

1. **Children**
2. **New converts**

To express your heart to God **does not** require special language, illustrations, or elaborate monologues.

The only thing that ever moves God is **our heart**.

**Example 2 Key Point: Turn Scripture into your own prayer.**

God loves to be reminded of what He has promised. So tell Him. Remind Him. Claim His **promises**.

*I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God,  
who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and  
keep His commandments...”*

—Nehemiah 1:5

The prayers of the Bible have one characteristic in common: they always focus on **the Person** to whom the prayer is addressed.

*...let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.*

—Nehemiah 1:6–7

A recognition of our **sinfulness** always follows a perception of God's **holiness**.

*Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, "If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell." They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man.*

—Nehemiah 1:8–11

When we turn Scripture into prayer, we are praying on the basis of the **promises** of God.

## **THE HOW TO**

*For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?*

—1 Thessalonians 3:9–10

**The first part of THE HOW TO is: all the time.**

It begins with the **first minute.**

*"..think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts. Our blood flows and our breathing continues without ceasing... Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life of the saint."*

—Oswald Chambers

**The second part of THE HOW TO is: with all your heart.**

You know what brings joy to God's heart? When we come to Him with open hearts and pray prayers that just **go for it**.

“When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words without heart.”

—John Bunyon

**KEY APPLICATION: What difference does this make in the way I live?**

**1. I pray to align my life to God's will.**

*And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”*

—Luke 22:41–42

While God will not always deliver us FROM our circumstances, He will deliver us THROUGH the circumstances, by giving us exactly what we need in order to accomplish what He asks us to do.

**2. I pray to lay my burdens before God.**

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

—Philippians 4:6–7

We have only ONE WAY to communicate with God. Prayer.

**3. I won't make any major decision in my life without seeking God through prayer.**

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

—Hebrews 4:16

**4. I will pray for others.**

“God loves me and makes me his child. God loves my neighbor and makes him my brother. My privilege is to complete the triangle, to close the circuit by loving who God loves.”

—Max Lucado

This love for others, which may seem impossible to give, is acquired through prayer.

“Divine Gift-love in the man enables him to love what is not naturally lovable; lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior, and the sneering.”

—C.S. Lewis, **The Four Loves**

**Right now, silently finish the phrase, “Lord, increase my love for (fill-in-the-blank).”**

## **KEY VERSES**

*Come and hear, all who fear God,  
And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.  
I cried to Him with my mouth,  
And He was extolled with my tongue.  
If I regard wickedness in my heart,  
The Lord will not hear;  
But certainly God has heard;  
He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
Who has not turned away my prayer  
Nor His lovingkindness from me.  
—Psalm 66:16–20*

**“A Lifestyle of Prayer”**—Part 2 of a series titled, “What Should I Do?”

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All verses from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted.