

Prayers of Scripture

Why a Study on Prayer?

1. Because prayer is commanded

- Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1; 1 Timothy 2:8

2. Because we are dependent

- 1 Cor. 4:7
- "...prayer is arguably the most objective measurement of our dependence upon God."¹

3. Because God is Sovereign and Sustains

- Acts 17:24; Ps. 139:13-16
- 1 Chron. 29:10ff
- Philippians 4:19

4. Because prayer is neglected

- JC Ryle: But I am satisfied that prayer is just one of those things which is thought a "matter of course," and like many matters of course is shamefully neglected. It is "everybody's business," and as it often happens in such cases, is a business carried on by very few. It is one of those private transactions between God and our souls which no eye sees, and therefore one which there is every temptation to pass over and leave undone"
- Martin Luther: "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer".

5. Because we need to be taught to pray

- Luke 11

¹ H. B. Jr Charles, *It Happens after Prayer: Biblical Motivation for Believing Prayer* (Moody Publishers, 2013)., p. 16.

Marks of Faithful Prayer (Ryle)

1. Reverence and Humility

- Ryle - "Let us never forget what we are, and what a solemn thing it is to speak with God. Let us beware of rushing in His presence with carelessness and levity. Let us say to ourselves, "I am on holy ground. This is no other than the gate of heaven. If I do not mean what I say, I am trifling with God. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Let us keep in mind the words of Solomon, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven, and thou on earth" (Eccles. 5:2). When Abraham spoke to God, he said, "I am dust and ashes." When Job, he said, "I am vile." Let us do likewise."

2. Praying Spiritually

3. Making Prayer a Regular Business of Life

- Ryle: "This only I say, that it is essential to your soul's health to make prayer a part of the business of every twenty-four hours in your life. Just as you allot time to eating, sleeping, and business, so also allot time to prayer."

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4. Perseverance in Prayer

5. Earnestness in Prayer

6. Praying with Faith

- "But God's no is not bad news. It is further proof of the good, holy, and loving purposes of God at work in our lives."²

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7. Boldness in Prayer

8. Fullness in Prayer

- Ryle: "At all events we are not likely in this day to err on the side of praying too much. Might it not rather be feared that many believers in this generation pray *too little*?"

9. Particularity in Prayer

- Ryle - "We should believe that nothing is too small to be named before God."

10. Intercession in Prayer

11. Thankfulness in Prayer

12. Watchfulness over Prayer

² Charles, *It Happens after Prayer.*, p. 40