

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 07.jpg

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." -Matthew 6:5-13 ESV

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Prayer expresses our daily dependency as Christ-followers. O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

—Joseph M. Scriven, What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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Make Prayer a Priority -in Life

Prayer needs to be a first choice and not a last resort.

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Take Time to Pray —Alone	Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known: In seasons of distress and grief My soul has often found relief And oft escaped the tempter's snare By thy return, sweet hour of prayer. —Williams W. Walford, Sweet Hour of Prayer
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Sweet minute of prayer, Sweet minute of prayer, That's just about all that I can spare. I have regrets and lots of sin So I'll see if I can squeeze them in. In seasons of distress and grief My greatest prayer is quick relief. But things are swell, I've no despair, I'll just spend half a minute in prayer. —Chris Fabry, Sweet Minute of Prayer	Let Prayer Begin with Surrender —to God
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² you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. —James 4:2b-3 NLT	Frame Your Prayer with God's Character—Not Circumstance
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"God does not need us to help Him interpret the circumstances that we face, but He wants us to turn our face toward Him so that we will interpret our circumstances in light of who He is and what He can do."

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Prayer Recognizes our Dependence on God—For Everything

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. —Matthew 6:8 ESV

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Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.

—1 Timothy 4:16 NLT

Prayer Restores and Delivers

—From Evil

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But There is Only One Authority for Prayer—Christ!

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

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¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

—Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name... —John 1:12 NKJV

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