

PRAYER THOUGHTS



Compiled by Bobbi Fisher
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Florence Photographs

What does it mean when we pray for someone? What happens when we pray? Over the years I have spent many days praying over these questions. My own answer is that prayer changes things; prayer changes me; prayer changes everything.



In the 1980s I began in earnest to explore my Christian faith. One day I heard God call me to pray for people. Not through words, not in my ears like the prophets Samuel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah! Rather, it was a sense that went straight to my heart. I was supposed to pray for people! It had to be a God call because there was no way I could make up such a thing. The call has never left me.

This booklet offers scripture from the New Testament and the Hebrew Bible, and quotes by Christian writers through the ages. In reading and praying them over and over again, my prayer life has deepened, and my faith has strengthened. I pray that it will do the same for you.

Please feel free to share.

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Day 1

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Prayer connects us to God's power, and enables us to be channels of that life-giving power to others.

Br. David Vryhof, SSJE

Private prayer is the only genuine path to real intimacy with God.

Joan Chittister

Sometime God's answer to your prayer is, "Wait".

Amy Carmichael



I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

Psalms 17:6

Day 2

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Overwork is the biggest obstacle to seekers moving toward the kind of prayer that is absorption into God beyond images.

Mary Margaret Funk

Prayers should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

George Herbert

The habit of prayer opens the eye of the soul to be watchful for God's love, to recognize his hand in his gifts.

Richard Meus Benson



May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Psalms 141.2.

Day 3

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luke 18:1

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances....

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

In prayer, do nothing.

John of the Cross

I do it [pray] for myself, in truth, but I also pray for others and pray that my silence may be useful somehow in the noisy world.

Sara Maitland

Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life.

Oswald Chamber



Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

Psalms 4:1

Day 4

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

John 17:15

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

Right prayer is that which actively implants the memory of God in the soul.

Basil the Great

Contemplative prayer ...is about the simplest form of prayer there is.

Cynthia Bourgeault

Prayer does not ask God to change the laws for our temporary convenience, but it tunes us in, so to speak, with divine Principle.

Emmet Fox



He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

Psalms 102:1

Day 5

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:41

What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also.

1 Corinthians 14:15

We pray because our life comes from God and we yield it back in prayer. Prayer is a great antidote to the illusion that we are self-made.

Walter Brueggemann

In the end it is prayer which allows me to hold everything else in place and which prevents me from being pulled apart, fragmented. Everything flows in and out of prayer: it is as simple as that.

Esther de Waal

The more activity in which you find yourself, the more you will need your times of prayer.

Thomas Keating



Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29:12

Day 6

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

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:6

Every prayer must come from the heart, and any other prayer is no prayer at all.

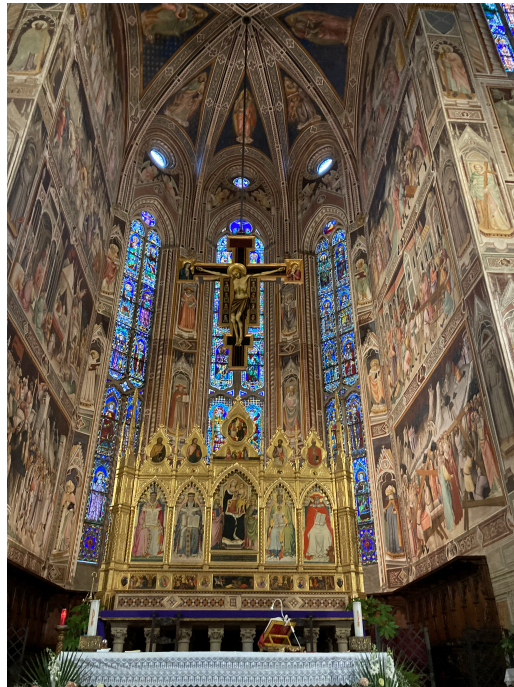
Theophan the Recluse

While I knitted, I prayed to enter her grief; I prayed light into every stitch; I prayed that she be comforted; I prayed that she be healed. I prayed that she would come to see her grief as an expression of her love....

Susan S. Jorgensen

For most of us the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait.

C.S. Lewis



The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Psalms 145:18

Day 7

"When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' "

Luke 11:2-4

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

Intercessory prayer is hard work, but it is a work of love. It is carrying those we love and long to be healed on our hearts, and taking them mysteriously and wonderfully into the very heart of God.

Br. Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE

My secret is a simple one: I pray.

Mother Theresa

Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, praising God until we ourselves are a constant act of praise.

Fr. Richard Rohr



Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

