

# Amen! 40 Days of Prayer

## A Beginner's Guide to Prayer

When you draw close to God you will have less stress and be more blessed.

*Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.*

*Psalm 37:4 (New Living Translation 2nd Edition)*

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."*

*Luke 11:1 (New International Version)*

*If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it.*

*James 1:5 (The Living Bible)*

*You do not have, because you do not ask.*

*James 4:2 (NIV)*

### FIVE POPULAR MYTHS ABOUT PRAYER

#### Myth #1: Prayer is a magic phrase.

*When you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.*

*Matthew 6:7 (New American Standard Bible, emphasis added)*

*You received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."*

*Romans 8:15 (NLT2)*

#### Myth #2: Prayer is a fire extinguisher.

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.*

*Philippians 4:6 (NLT2)*

#### Myth #3: Prayer is a tug of war with God.

*I love the LORD, because he listens to my prayers.*

*Psalm 116:1 (New Century Version)*

*It makes . . . [the Lord] happy when his people pray.*

*Proverbs 15:8 (Contemporary English Version)*

*The Lord waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion."*

*Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)*

#### Myth #4: Prayer is a punishment for your sins.

*When you pray do not use meaningless repetition..*

*Matthew 6:7 (NAS)*

#### Myth #5: Prayer is a performance.

*When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they've received their reward in full.*

*Matthew 6:5*

*(NIV)*

*Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith.*

*Hebrews 10:22 (Today's English Version, emphasis added)*

### POWERFUL PRAYING DEPENDS ON TWO RELATIONSHIPS

#### 1. Powerful praying depends on your relationship with your heavenly Father.

##### 1.) Have you asked Him to be your Father?

*To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*

*John 1:12 (NLT2)*

*You are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does.*

*John 8:44 (NLT2)*

*Think how much the Father loves us. He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children, as we truly are.*

*1 John 3:1 (CEV)*

##### 2.) Are you refusing to turn from something that's wrong?

*If I had not confessed [admitted] the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

*Psalm 66:18 (NLT2)*

##### 3.) Are you refusing to do something God's told you to do?

##### 4.) Do you believe God can do what you're asking?

*"Do you believe I can make you see?" "Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do." Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." Then their eyes were opened, and they could see!*

*Matthew 9:28-30 (NLT2)*

##### 5.) Do you believe what you're asking is God's will?

*A man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.*

*Matthew 8:2-3 (NLT2, emphasis added)*

#### I expect God to speak to me through the people in my small group.

*We are certain that God will hear our prayers when we ask for what pleases him.*

*1 John 5:14 (CEV)*

#### 2. Powerful praying depends on your relationship with people.

##### 1.) The strength of my prayers depends on the strength of my relationships.

*If two of you agree here on earth [admitting my need, discovering what's true] concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.*

*Matthew 18:19 (NLT2)*

##### 2.) The strength of my prayers also depends on the way I treat others.

###### • Have I forgiven those who have hurt me?

*If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

*Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT2)*

###### • Am I treating those around me compassionately?

*In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

*1 Peter 3:7 (NLT2, emphasis added)*

*God . . . is able . . . to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

*Ephesians 3:20 (NLT2)*