
i n t r o d u c t i o n

TODAY'S GREATEST NEED

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and
shew thee great and mighty things, which
thou knowest not.*

—Jeremiah 33:3

What is the greatest need facing the church today?
Prayer!

A survey of 1,300 ministry leaders from around the world were asked that question. Participants were given a list of 3,700 different issues. They were also provided an opportunity for additional input. Most of the answers were fairly predictable: abortion (#10), marriage (#7), and apathy (#6). Numbers 5 to 2, respectively, were doctrine, evangelism, leadership, and discipleship.

Number 1?

It is prayer.¹

The greatest need facing today's Christians, according to top leaders, is the need for more ongoing, passionate prayer in both personal and church life! It is the most pressing challenge facing believers today. It is the greatest need in the church today!

God Almighty wants to birth prayer in your heart. It is the answer to your relationship with Him. It is the key to your survival in today's world in the coming days. Without prayer that gets results, we will be powerless and impotent in the midst of these troubled and confusing times.

How about you? What would your life be like if you could move into the powerful, overwhelming, all-encompassing, eternal presence of God without fail, anytime you desired? How different would your life be? Your conversations? Your relationships? Your thoughts? Your goals? Your actions?

What would it be like to receive answers to prayer, time after time? How would your life truly change if you could be in contact daily with your heavenly Father?

It is possible to enjoy the presence of God every day and to have your prayers answered. How do I know? The Bible is filled with promises that God answers prayer:

And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. (1 Kings 9:3)

The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. (Psalm 6:9)

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Luke 11:9-10)

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers. (1 Peter 3:12)

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

God Almighty sent His Son to earth to die for our salvation and to provide eternal redemption, but also to restore the broken bonds of fellowship that man enjoyed with God before the Fall.

God sent His Holy Spirit to be our Helper in order that we might live a life of power and communion with Him, yet many today do not know this glorious privilege. They ask:

- Does God hear when I call?
- Is the Lord involved in every area of my life?
- Can I know Him intimately?
- Does He answer prayer?
- How can I learn to hear His voice?
- Does God intervene in the affairs of man?

The answer is a resounding *yes!*

Are you ready for an intimate walk with the Lord—a walk you have hungered for and longed for with all your being? As you read this book, I pray that the Lord will begin to show you how and empower you to live a life of prayer that gets results.

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THE MODEL PRAYER

*This is how the
Master teaches us to pray:
He brings us into the
Father's living presence.
What we pray there
must avail.*

Andrew Murray

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Scripture records: *“And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray”* (Luke 11:1).

One of the greatest requests in the Word of God is the one made to the Lord Jesus by His disciples—*“Lord, teach us to pray”*—a cry that still echoes in the hearts of those who long to follow Him.

Why did the disciple make such an urgent request? It is because of the great and mighty hunger that dwelled in their hearts for the knowledge of God.

Effective prayer is God’s invitation into His limitlessness. Prayer crosses the border of time into eternity. And in response to the disciple’s request, *“Teach us to pray,”* the answer given by the Lord Jesus so long ago is as fresh and applicable right now as it was when He first offered the model prayer. He knew that a good example is worth a thousand sermons. He lived it daily. As a result, we not only have His teaching that came as a result of the disciple’s request, but we have an example, a model prayer, and a powerful pattern which we can follow.

And as we begin our study of prayer, I can think of no better place to start than with the Master's model prayer.

A PATTERN FOR PRAYER

What the Lord Jesus taught is often called the "Lord's Prayer." Actually, the "Lord's Prayer" is found in John 17. This one should actually be called the disciple's prayer. The Lord said, "*After this manner pray ye.*" He gave a model prayer—a pattern for those who would follow His example. It is the foundation upon which we can build a life of prayer. It is a foundation, not a formula; a standard to follow, not a rigid ritual.

The Lord Jesus gave us clear instructions that are vital as we build a life of prayer, calling daily upon Him. He said:

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
(Matthew 6:5-6)