

Prayer Bibliography

The one book we need to turn to first is the Bible. There we find the disciples observing Jesus praying when they asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray”. What an opportunity to learn directly from Jesus’ instruction about communication with our Heavenly Father! In these passages found in Luke 11:1-13 and also in Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus teaches his followers many lessons about prayer such as the power of persistence (which I have also learned from my own young childrens’ persistent requests - and I know you know what I mean!); instructions on asking, seeking, and knocking; the benevolence of our Heavenly Father; and one of the most well-known passages in the Bible, which is what we’ve come to know as *The Lord’s Prayer*.

What Jesus seems to be trying to communicate to us is that prayer does not have to be complicated. In fact, He comes right out and tells us not to pray fancy, complicated prayers to impress men publicly. But rather, He wants us to pray from our heart in a one-on-one conversation with the Father. Isn’t that what it’s all about?

The books listed below expound on Jesus’ teaching. Some of the books may share on methods, such as an order for prayer as in the following example: Praise, Thanksgiving, Confession, Intercession, Supplication, etc. Other books motivate you to press on to a new level in your prayer life and your relationship with God. Some include written prayers that you can pray for family and friends, or instructions on how to use a passage of scripture as a prayer. Then still others give you things to think about that draw you near to the heart of God and seamlessly drift you into an attitude of prayer in worship of His majesty and grace.

The books are arranged by author and not by importance or subject. The descriptions were taken from common book distributors’ websites or the book itself. The books would make a great beginning to a library or for you to add to your library or your ministry’s library.

Kay Arthur, *Lord, Teach Me To Pray in 28 Days*

Arthur uses The Lord’s Prayer as an outline to change the way we pray and live. Excerpt: “The Lord’s prayer is a collection of index sentences, covering every element of prayer. Therefore, when you follow sentence by sentence, principle by principle, you find yourself covering every possible aspect of prayer.”

Jerry Bridges, *I Exalt You, O God: Encountering His Greatness in Your Private Worship*

As the world becomes ever more impersonal, hectic, and stressful, our hunger grows for the reality of God’s greatness in our lives. We seek moments of personal worship and praise to God...we desire His awesome presence... [Bridges] guides you into God’s throne room for an intensely personal time of worship. Excerpt: “Perhaps the idea of private worship is new to you. You have always thought of worship as something to do on Sunday morning at church with other believers. Now you see the importance of private, daily worship, but you don’t know how to begin.” This book will help!

Evelyn Christianson, *What Happens When Women Pray*

One of the most recommended books. Here’s what Jenni Key, Director of Communications for Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton has to say: “It would not be an understatement to say that the ‘classic’ by Evelyn Christenson, *What Happens When Women Pray*, changed my life. I read the book, attended the seminar, arranged for her to come to do the seminar at our church (all this back in the 80s!).”

and continue to practice what she preached to this day!” Other books on prayer by **Evelyn Christiansen** include *What Happens when God Answers Prayer* and *What Happens When We Pray for Our Families*.

Wesley Duewell, *Touch The World Through Prayer*

“I have quite a collection of books on prayer in my personal library, but without a doubt, this is the best ever.... It is full of good suggestions about prayer. It challenges you to a new level of intercession (praying for others). I would highly recommend it for anyone serious about developing a strong prayer life.” **Wesley Duewell** also wrote *Mighty Prevailing Prayer*.

Richard Foster, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*

Best-selling author Richard J. Foster offers a warm, compelling, and sensitive primer on prayer, helping us to understand, experience, and practice it in its many forms—from the simple prayer of beginning again to unceasing prayer. He clarifies the prayer process, answers common misconceptions, and shows the way into prayers of contemplation, healing, blessing, forgiveness, and rest.

Coming to prayer is like coming home, Foster says. "Nothing feels more right, more like what we are created to be and to do. Yet at the same time we are confronted with great mysteries. Who hasn't struggled with the puzzle of unanswered prayer? Who hasn't wondered how a finite person can commune with the infinite Creator of the universe? Who hasn't questioned whether prayer isn't merely psychological manipulation after all? We do our best, of course, to answer these knotty questions but when all is said and done, there is a sense in which these mysteries remain unanswered and unanswerable . . . At such times we must learn to become comfortable with the mystery." Also by **Foster, *Celebration of Discipline***.

Cheri Fuller, *When Mothers Pray: Bringing God's Power and Blessing to Your Children's Lives*

“...a book of hope, inspiration, and stories that will revitalize the prayer life of readers. Many women experience hopelessness when they pray for their children and see no discernible results – yet praying is one of the most vital things we can do for our kids...Women will find new motivation to refresh their prayer lives – and to make a difference in the lives of their children as they intercede for them.”

Cynthia Heald, *Becoming a Woman of Prayer*

“So often we think of prayer as something we do to break through to God – to get His attention and to get Him to listen to us. But intimacy with God is His idea. He has taken the initiative and prayer is His gift to us. It is an opportunity for us to respond to His invitation to intimacy by calling, crying, and singing to Him. Prayer is our response to the One who has called out to us and desires to be in a relationship with us.”

Bill Hybels, *Too Busy Not To Pray*

“Most of us have trouble finding time to pray. There’s church and school and neighborhood and job and friends and recreation. And then the crises hit! Time for prayer seems impossible to find. As a pastor, Bill Hybels know hundreds of people with schedules like this. Yet in his own life he has made the hard discovery that prayer doesn’t happen on the run. He decided he was too busy *not* to pray. The ideas in this practical book can help us to learn to slow down to be with God as well.”

Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God.*

Over 300 years ago in a French monastery, a humble kitchen worker discovered that the art of living a joyful life lies in "practicing the presence of God." Excerpt: "During your meals or during any daily duty, lift up your heart to Him, because even the least little remembrance will please Him. You don't have to pray out loud; He's nearer than you can imagine."

C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm Chiefly on Prayer: Collections on the Intimate Dialogue between Man and God*

"In the form of warm, relaxed letters to a close friend, Lewis meditates on many puzzling questions concerning the intimate dialogue between man and God. Lewis also considers practical and metaphysical aspects of private prayer, petitionary prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and other forms of prayer."

Sarah Maddox & Patti Webb, *A Mother's Garden of Prayer*

The book is a collection of Scriptures designed to be prayed to and for children. The book is small and thin so easily goes anywhere with you. The genius is in giving the prayers of parents purpose and structure.

John Anthony McGuckin, *The Book of Mystical Chapters: Meditations on the Soul's Ascent, from the Desert Fathers and other Early Christian Contemplatives*

"*The Book of Mystical Chapters* wants to slow you down. Its 300 brief meditations, drawn from the writings of the earliest Christian contemplatives, are meant to be read over the course of 300 days. The book's translator and editor, John Anthony McGuckin, explains that this is how early Christian pilgrims learned the wisdom of the Desert Fathers, ascending through three stages of spiritual understanding, from the practical to the transcendent."

Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*

One of the best-known and best-loved classics of all time! Excerpt: "The Father waits to hear every prayer of faith. He wants to give us whatever we ask in Jesus' name... Many complain that they don't have the power to pray in faith an effective prayer that accomplishes much. The message I want to give them is that the blessed Jesus is waiting and longing to teach them this."

Fern Nichols, *Every Child Needs A Praying Mom*

"Fern Nichols introduces a way of praying that energizes, creates an appetite for intimacy with God, overcomes spiritual paralysis, eliminates fear, unveils the heart and character of God and transforms the pray-er's life and perspective. She teaches how to pray effectively with others, how to prepare for spiritual battles that swirl when prayer is on the move, how to persist in prayer in the face of hopelessness and despair, and how to use Scripture for effective prayer." Also by **Fern Nichols**, *Prayers from a Mom's Heart.*

Henri Nouwen, *With Open Hands*

“...[This book] is an excellent example of using a simple image to invite a person to prayer and a deeper experience of God. Clenched fists demonstrate being closed to God, and through reflections on prayer: silence, acceptance, hope, compassion, and prophetic criticism, Nouwen invites us to open our hands and thus, be open to God. This work is excellent for people who are new to prayer or are trying to discover new prayer techniques, but it is profound enough to help all people experience God.” Also by **Nouwen: *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life***, Excerpt: “Prayer is the bridge between my unconscious and conscious life. Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly. Prayer is the divine instrument of my wholeness, unity, and inner peace.”

Stormie Omartian, *The Power of a Praying Wife & The Power of a Praying Parent*

Omartian’s books are recommended highly.

The Power of a Praying Wife, “Stormie Omartian pinpoints common marital struggles and reveals the miraculous way that disciplined prayer can alleviate heartache and sustain unity. ... [She] attributes the success of her own 25-year marriage to dedicated prayer for every area--however specific--of her husband's life; from his finances and his work to his integrity and his temptations. Each chapter offers insight into areas that are especially important to men, followed by "power tools" (inspiring, topical Scripture) to guide one's prayer life and transform a woman's mind with regard to her husband. This practical read will encourage women to trust God to change their spouse, and undoubtedly refocus one's perspective on God's power rather than one's own personal predicament.”

The Power of a Praying Parent, “Stormie Omartian and her husband, Michael, have spent the past 20 years raising their children...and learning the power of praying for them. Now, in 30 short, easy-to-read chapters, she shares how you can pray through every age and stage of your child's life. Learn how to turn to the Father and place every detail of your child's life in His loving and capable hands: safety, friends, relationships, school, adolescence, marriage, and career choices.”

Also by **Omartian: *The Power of a Praying Husband*, , *The Power of Praying Together: Where Two or More Are Gathered*, *The Prayer That Changes Everything: The Hidden Power of Praising God***

***Pray! Magazine*, A Navigators Publication**

“*Pray!* magazine will revolutionize your thinking about prayer. With thought-provoking articles from leaders of the prayer movement, excerpts from classic books on prayer, uplifting news updates, and biblical, effective strategies, *Pray!* is what you need to set your prayer life on fire.” www.navpress.com

***Pray! Kids Magazine*, A Navigators Publication**

“*PrayKids!*'s mission is "to encourage and equip children as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors." Each issue of the 8-page publication revolves around a theme. Praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession are the first four themes. *PrayKids!* always includes a lead article, an article by or about a child, a section teaching how to pray Scripture, a Bible story on prayer, a missions section, activity sections, and a parents' page. *PrayKids!*'s website also includes a leader's guide with discussion questions and prayer activities to go with each section.” www.navpress.com

Dutch Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer: How God Can Use Your Prayers to Move Heaven and Earth*
Sheets is an author of many books devoted to the subject of prayer but may not be as familiar to some. “If you've ever felt that your prayers don't count, "Intercessory Prayer" will show you just how vital your prayers are. Pastor and teacher Dutch Sheets explains the nuts and bolts of prayer, with wisdom, gentleness, and humor. This book will inspire you, give you the courage to pray for the impossible and help you find the persistence to see your prayers to completion. Discover your role as a prayer warrior.”

Mother Teresa, *A Simple Path*.

A Simple Path is a collection of Mother Teresa's thoughts and experiences “that have led her to do her extraordinary charitable work” compiled by Lucinda Vardey. It is a candid look at her everyday life and the very simplicity and self-sacrifice that gave her the strength to move mountains.

Dallas Willard, *Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering our Hidden Life in God*, “Willard gracefully weaves biblical teaching, popular culture, science, scholarship, and spiritual practice into a tour de force that shows the necessity of profound changes in how we view our lives and faith. In an era when many Christians consider Jesus a beloved but remote savior, Willard argues compellingly for the relevance of God to every aspect of our existence. Masterfully capturing the central insights of Christ's teachings in a fresh way for today's seekers, he helps us to explore a revolutionary way to experience God--by knowing Him as an essential part of the here and now, rather than only as a part of the hereafter.”

Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*, “You can experience significant growth in your Christian walk, shed sinful habits, and increasingly take on the character of Christ. In *Renovation of the Heart*, best-selling author Dallas Willard calls it "the transformation of the spirit"—a divine process that "brings every element in our being, working from inside out, into harmony with the will of God or the kingdom of God." In the transformation of our spirits, we become apprentices of Jesus Christ.”

Most of the above information was stolen from a 10/04 newsletter of Patti Lingenfelter