

ANNEX 4  
Selected Quotations  
On  
Prayer

A

*Andross, Matilda E.*

“Time spent alone with God is not wasted. It changes us; it changes our surroundings; and every Christian who would live the life that counts, and who would have power for service must take time to pray.”

“There is no other activity in life so important as that of prayer. Every other activity depends upon prayer for its best efficiency.”

“If the Christian does not allow prayer to drive sin out of his life, sin will drive prayer out of his life. Like light and darkness, the two cannot dwell together.”

B

*Barclay, William*

“Prayer is not flight, prayer is power. Prayer does not deliver a man from a terrible situation; prayer enables a man to face and master the situation”.

*Barth, Karl*

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

*Baxter, Sidlow*

“Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.”

“I can just imagine Satan gathering all the demons in hell and discussing what they can do to destroy Christians. And Satan says, “Keep them from praying. Because no matter what else they do, if they don’t pray, we can beat them every time. But if they learn how to pray, they’ll beat us every time. Keep them from praying.””

*Billheimer, Paul E.*

“Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying.”

*Bounds, E.M.*

“If we really pray, we will become more like God, or else we will quit praying.”

“Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still.”

“The little estimate we put on prayer is evidence from the little time we give to it.”

“If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day.”

“No learning can make up for the failure to pray. No earnestness, no diligence, no study, no gifts will supply its lack.”

“A growing in its purity and devotion will be a more prayerful life.”

“Prayer breaks all bars, dissolves all chains, opens all prisons and widens all straits by which God’s saints have been held.”

“Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer; God heeds prayer; God answers prayer; and God delivers by prayer.”

“We can do nothing without prayer. All things can be done by importunate prayer. That is the teaching of Jesus Christ.”

“The word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished and made strong.”

“What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.”

“Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet.”

“*Ask of me* is the one condition God puts in the very advance and triumph of His cause.”

“Prayer is the one prime, eternal condition by which the Father is pledged to put the Son in possession of the world. Christ prays through His people.”

“The most important lesson we can learn is how to pray.”

"I purpose to take occasion of praying upon the sight of any church which I may pass, that God may be worshipped there in spirit, and that souls may be saved there."

"Prayer with so many of us is simply a form of selfishness; it means asking for something for ourselves-that and nothing more."

"Prayer is our most formidable weapon, but the one in which we are the least skilled, the most averse to its use."

"We are in danger of substituting churchly work and a ceaseless round of showy activities for prayer and holy living. A holy life does not live in the closet, but it cannot live without the (prayer) closet."

"The Gospel cannot live, fight, conquer without prayer-prayer unceasing instant and ardent."

"Prayer is the mightiest agent to advance God's work."

"He who is too busy to pray will be too busy to live a holy life."

"When prayer fails, the world prevails."

"We pray feebly because we live feebly."

"Prayer is the helpless and needy child crying to the compassion of the Father's heart and the bounty and power of a Father's hand."

*Bowd, W.S.*

"Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence."

*Buchan, Angus*

"There is power in prayer. When men work, they work, but when men pray, God works."

*Bunyan, John*

"He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day."

"When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words without heart."

## C

*Calvin, John*

“To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them.”

“Prayer is the chief exercise of faith.”

*Carey, William*

“Prayer-secret, fervent, believing prayer-lies at the root of all personal godliness.”

*Chambers, Oswald*

“We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties.”

“We do not pray at all until we are at our wits end.”

“When a man is at his wits end, it is not a cowardly thing to pray, it is the only way he can get in touch with Reality.”

“The greatest answer to prayer is that I am brought into a perfect understanding with God, and that alters my view of actual things.”

*Cowper, William*

“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.”

## D

*Drummond, Henry*

“Ten minutes spent in the presence of Christ every day, aye, two minutes, will make the whole day different.”

## E

*Edwards, Johnathan*

“Prayer is as natural expression of faith as breathing is of life.”

## F

*Finney, Charles G.*

Effective prayer is prayer that attains what it seeks. It is prayer that moves God, effecting its end.”

*Furtick, Steven*

"Prayer is the arena where our faith meets God's abilities."

## G

*Gordon, A.J.*

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed."

*Gordon, S.D.*

"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray! I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor those who explain prayer; but I mean those who actually take the time to pray."

"They have not time. It must be taken from something else. That something else is important, very important and pressing, but still, less important and pressing than prayer. There are people who put prayer first, and group the other things in life's schedule around and after prayer."

*Graham, Billy*

"Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God."

"I believe that the greatest form of prayer is praise to God."

## H

*Haverson, Richard*

"Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent-no nation-no organization-no city-no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out."

*Heschel, Abraham Joshua*

"The issue of prayer is not prayer. The issue of prayer is God. One can not pray unless he has faith in his own ability to accost the infinite, merciful, eternal God."

*Hiebert, D. Edmund*

"Prayer does not merely consist in our speaking to God. It is not a monologue but a dialogue."

*Henry, Matthew*

"You may as soon find a living man that does not breathe, as a living Christian that does not pray."

*Henry, Philip*

"Prayers not felt by us are seldom heard by God."

*Horton, R.F.*

“Therefore, whether the desire for prayer is on you or not, get to your closet at the set time; shut yourself in with God; wait upon Him; seek His face; realize Him; pray.”

I

J

*James, William*

“The sovereign cure for worry is prayer.”

“The reason why we pray is simply that we cannot help praying.”

*Jeremiah, David*

“Prayer is the way you defeat the devil, reach the lost, restore a backslider, strengthen the saints, send missionaries out, cure the sick, accomplish the impossible and know the will of God.”

*Judson, Adoniram*

“I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for anything but it came at some time; no matter at how distant a day, somehow, in some shape, probably the least I would have devised, it came.”

K

*Keith, Edwin*

Prayer is exhaling the spirit of man and inhaling the spirit of God.”

*Keller, Timothy*

“Prayer is the way to experience a powerful confidence that God is handling our lives well.”

*Kierkegaard, Soren*

“The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of one who prays.”

L

*Laidlaw, John*

“The main lesson about prayer is just this: Do it! Do it! Do it! You want to be taught to pray. My answer is pray and never faint, and then you shall never fail...”

*Law, William*

“He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life.”

*Lawrence, Brother*

There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God."

*Liguori, St. Alphonsus*

"Prayer, without a doubt, is the most powerful weapon the Lord gives us to conquer evil...but we must really put ourselves into the prayer. It is not enough just to say the words; it must come from the heart."

*Lincoln, Abraham*

"I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation may be on the Lord's side."

*Lucado, Max*

"But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

*Luther, Martin*

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

"As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray."

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness."

"Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon."

"To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian Life as prayer."

"The fewer the words, the better the prayer."

## M

*M'Cheyne, Robert Murray*

"I ought to pray before seeing any one...Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: "Early will I seek thee" ...I feel it is far better to begin with God-to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another."

*Mother Teresa*

"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil."

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."

"Prayer is the breath of life to our soul; holiness is impossible without it."

“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

*Muller, George*

“It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer.”

*Murray, Andrew*

The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.”

“Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian.”

“We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth.”

“Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God’s voice in response to mine is its most essential part.”

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.

“Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!”

“Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things “above all that we ask or think. “ “

“Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power.”

“Shut the world out, withdraw from all worldly thoughts and occupations, and shut yourself in alone with God, to pray to Him in secret. Let this be your chief object in prayer to realize the presence of your heavenly Father.”

*Meyer, Joyce*

“I’ve taught a lot about prayer over the years and how it is really just talking to God.”

## N

*Nee, Watchman*

“Our prayers lay the track down over which God’s power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.”



O

P

*Pio of Pietrelcina*

“Prayer is the best weapon we possess. It is the key that opens the heart of God.”

Q

R

*Ravenhill, Leonard*

“The true church lives and moves and has its being in prayer.”

“Prayer is as mighty as God, because He has committed Himself to answer it.”

*Rogers, Will*

“The trouble with our praying is, we just do it as a means of last resort.”

S

*Shoemaker, Samuel*

“Prayer may not change things for you, but it for sure changes you for things.”

*Singh, Sadhu Sundar*

“Prayer does not mean asking God for all kinds of things we want; it is rather the desire for God Himself, the only Giver of life. Prayer is not asking, but union with God. Prayer is not a painful effort to gain from God help in the varying needs of our lives. Prayer is the desire to possess God Himself, the Source of all life. The true spirit of prayer does not consist in asking for blessings, but in receiving Him who is the giver of all blessings, and in living a life of fellowship with Him.”

*Sproul, R.C.*

“Prayer is to the Christian what breath is to life, yet no duty of the Christian is so neglected.”

*Spurgeon, Charles*

“I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.”

“...True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.”

“If a man can but pray he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has heaven and earth at his disposal.”

“A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel.”

“Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.”

“Prayer is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.”

“Prayer is not a hard requirement it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to divine liberality.”

*St. Teresa of Avila*

“I don’t know what heavy penance I would not have gladly undertaken rather than practice prayer.”

“For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.”

“A beginner must look on himself as one setting out to make a garden for his Lord’s pleasure, on most unfruitful soil which abound in weeds. His Majesty roots up the weeds and will put in good plants instead. Let us reckon that this is already done when the soul decides to practice prayer and has begun to do so.”

*Stowe, Harriet Beecher*

“Prayer is a long rope with a stronghold.”

## T

*Taylor, James Hudson*

“I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working.”

*Ten Boom, Corrie*

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

“Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.”

“Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.”

“My father prayed because he had a good friend with whom to share the problems of the day.”

*Tersteegen, Gerhard*

“Prayer is simply asking God to do for us what he has promised us he will do if we ask him...”

“Asking is man’s part. Giving is God’s part. The praying belongs to us. The answer belongs to God.”

*Torrey, R.A.*

“Those persons who know the deep peace of God, the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding, are always men and women of much prayer.”

‘We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.’

“If we would pray aright, the first thing we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him.”

*Trench, Richard Chenevix*

“Prayer is not getting man’s will done in heaven, but getting God’s will done on earth.”

U

V

W

*Wesley, John*

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.”

“Carefulness and prayer cannot stand together.”

“Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected to it.”

“Prayer may be said to be the breath of our spiritual life.”

“Neither should any day pass without family prayer, seriously performed.”

“And the best prayers are but vain repetitions if they are not the language of the heart.”

“The neglect of private prayer, or the hurrying over it, is the most frequent sin of omission.”

“Above all, let them be instructed, when the storm is upon them, not to reason with the devil but to pray.”

“But Christians are called to go still further: to add piety to justice; to intermix prayer-prayer of the heart-with all of the work of their hands.”

“Wrestle with God for the mighty blessing. Pour out your soul in prayer! Continue in all perseverance! Watch!! Awake out of sleep and keep awake, that you not be more and more alienated from the light and life of God.”

“On every occasion of uneasiness we should retire to prayer, that we may give place to grace and light of God and then form our resolutions, without being in any pain about what success they may have.”

*Whitefield, George*

“Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.”

*Willard, Dallas*

“Prayer is talking with God about what we are doing together.”

X

Y

Z

*Zinzendorf, Nikolaus*

“Preach the gospel, die, and be forgotten.”