

# WORTH QUOTING

## SOME AMAZING THOUGHTS & INSIGHTS ABOUT PRAYER FROM THOSE WHO'VE GONE BEFORE US

The small prayers of weak and broken people move the heart of God.

You cannot sustain a long-term prayer movement until prayer is joyful.

**Mike Bickle**  
Founder & director of the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, MO  
Author of numerous books

From heaven's standpoint, all spiritual victories are won not primarily in the pulpit, not primarily in the klieg light of publicity, nor yet through the ostentatious blaring of trumpets, but in the secret place of prayer.

That God will do nothing in the realm of human redemption, since its inception, outside of this scheme of prayer and intercession is indicated by God's many pressing invitations to prayer in His Word. He not only invites: He entreats, He importunes, He urges. He even begs us to exercise this privilege...Evidently He can do nothing without our prayers. He not only invites and exhorts us to pray, He also commands!

**Paul Billheimer**  
1897-1984  
Author of *Destined for the Throne*

God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. The lips that uttered them may be closed in death, the heart that felt them may have ceased to beat, but the prayers live before God, and God's heart is set on them. Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them, outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world.

**E.M. Bounds**  
1835-1913  
Methodist author of many classic books on the prayer life

The great battles, the battles that decide our destiny and the destiny of generations yet unborn, are not fought on public platforms, but in the lonely hours of the night and in moments of agony.

**Samuel Logan Brengle**  
1860-1936  
A commissioner in The Salvation Army and a leading author, teacher and preacher

One day, when all of the secrets of God are fully understood by the children of men, most Christians will marvel that they never fully appropriated the mighty spiritual resources of God's promises to all who believe in Christ because they have never learned how to pray. No privilege known to men compares with the privilege of having fellowship with God , literally talking to Him and experiencing His response.

I am waiting for the day when I can retire from Campus Crusade and be promoted to intercessor.

**Bill Bright**  
1921–2003  
Founder & President of Campus Crusade for Christ

Prayer is the one mission to the world that all Christians can share. Through prayer any of us can directly love the unreached, even to the ends of the earth. As far as God can go, prayer can go.

God is stirring His people to pray specifically, increasingly, and persistently for world revival....If God is stirring up the Church to pray with this distinctive focus and consensus, He will not let us pray in vain. He has promised to hear and answer us fully.

**David Bryant**  
Author of *The Hope at Hand*

Prayer does not equip us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.

We lean to our own understanding, or we bank on service and do away with prayer, and consequently by succeeding in the external, we fail in the eternal, because in the eternal we succeed only by prevailing prayer.

**Oswald Chambers**  
1874-1917  
Author of the classic devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Prayer, in its simplest form, is finding out what God wants to do and then asking Him to do it.

**Graham Cooke**  
Born in Manchester, UK, he is a popular conference speaker and author of numerous books

When God has something very great to accomplish for His church, it is His will that there should precede it, the extraordinary prayers of His people .... When God is about to accomplish great things for His Church, He will begin by remarkably pouring out the spirit of grace and supplication.

**Jonathan Edwards**  
1703–1758  
American preacher and theologian and former president of Princeton University

Intercessors are the stewards of the prophetic promises of the church.

**Lou Engel**

**Visionary and co-founder of *THE CALL* solemn assemblies, a movement of prayer for breakthrough & revival**

Real intercession is what comes out of listening. Spiritual exercises and disciplines can be terribly hollow. The real center is hearing God's voice and obeying His word. A silent period spent listening to God is indispensable.

The problem with describing prayer as speaking to God is that it implies we are still in control. But in listening, we let go. Real intercession is what comes out of listening.

**Richard Foster**

**Author of *Celebration of Discipline and Freedom of Simplicity***

We must move from asking God to take care of the things that are breaking our hearts, to praying about the things that are breaking his heart.

**Margaret Gibb**

**President of *Women Alive***

You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.

**Dr. A.J. Gordon**

**1836-1895**

**American Baptist preacher & author**

As we dive into the Father's heart we are overwhelmed by His presence, the fullness of joy. From this place we begin to see from His perspective. As we see and understand His world we are compelled to intercede. We are now praying and speaking with fresh insight...From the intimate place with our Father everything is birthed.

**Beni Johnson**

**Wife of Pastor Bill Johnson & author of *The Happy Intercessor***

There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him.

**William Law**

**1686-1761**

**English cleric and author of *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life***

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

**Martin Luther**

**1483-1546**

**German priest and professor of theology who initiated what came to be known as the Protestant Reformation**

Prayer is the cutting edge of any work for God. Prayer is the work and the spiritual ministry. It should be the central thrust. The spiritual history of the church is written in its prayer life...

**R. Arthur Matthews**  
Author of *Born to Battle*

The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer.

**F.B. Meyer**  
1847-1929  
Baptist pastor and evangelist in England and contemporary of D. L. Moody

Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.

**D.L. Moody**  
1837-1899  
American evangelist & founder of the Moody Church & Bible Institute in Chicago

The privilege of prayer is the flagship proof that God created man to participate in His kingdom agenda and not just dangle from His fingers like a puppet. That a sovereign God welcomes mere human beings to touch His heart and affect His work is nothing less than stunning.

**Beth Moore**  
Author of numerous well-known books and Bible studies

The great thing in prayer is to feel that we are putting our supplications into the bosom of omnipotent love.

God's intense longing to bless seems, in some sense, to be graciously limited by His dependence on intercession. God regards intercession as the highest expression of His people's readiness to receive and to yield themselves wholly to the working of His almighty power. God rules the world and His Church through the prayers of His people. That God should have made the extension of His Kingdom, to such an extent, dependent on the faithfulness of His people is a stupendous mystery and yet an absolute certainty.

**Andrew Murray**  
1828-1917  
Author of many books on prayer & the Christian life

Prayer is first of all listening to God...God is always speaking; he's always doing something. Prayer is to enter that activity.

**Henri Nouwen**  
Author of *The Way of the Heart*

I have researched prayer movements in relationship to spiritual awakening for more than half a century. It has drawn me to two conclusions: First, no great spiritual awakening ever occurred apart from united prayer. Secondly, after visiting more than 150 countries for over fifty years, I have never heard of or read about a greater united movement of prayer than is now emerging around the world.

**J. Edwin Orr**  
**1912-1987**

**Probably the 20<sup>th</sup> century's greatest authority on revival & moves of the Holy Spirit**

It's not the historian, nor the politician, but the intercessor who has his hand on the throttle of human history.

**George Otis, Jr.**  
**Author of *The Twilight Labyrinth, & Informed Intercession***

One of the greatest acts of faith is offering a simple prayer for a child, teen, or young adult you have never seen, in a land where you have never been.

**Beverly Pegues**  
**Author of *A Call to Prayer***

There is a mysterious relationship between God's sovereignty and man's intercession (Ezekiel 36:37). In a certain sense God has chosen to make Himself dependent upon us. He says, 'This is what I intend to do but it won't happen until you ask Me to do it for you.'

**Derek Prince**  
**1915-2003**  
**Author of many books, including *Shaping History thru Prayer & Fasting***

The secret of praying is praying in secret.

No man is greater than his prayer life.

I think the most awesome task in the world tonight is not to be the president of the United States or the king of an empire, but to be a man who stands between a living God and a dying people.

We must learn to pray and we must pray to learn to pray.

The self-satisfied, self-righteous, self-sufficient don't need to pray. The less self-confident we are the more we will pray.

**Leonard Ravenhill**  
**Author of *Why Revival Tarries***

In the Lord's Prayer from Luke 11:2-4, ...the verb mood and tense of 'Your Kingdom come' essentially says, 'Father, let Your Kingdom come here and now. Such prayerful intervention is called intercession. Motivation toward such prayer occurs when we recognize the importance Jesus placed on prayer in helping us serve in our roles as 'kingdom administrators.' Without the intervention of God's Kingdom rule through prayer, earth's circumstances will succumb to inevitable consequences. Earthly scenes of need must be penetrated by God's 'will here as in heaven.' Either the weakness of man's rule (the flesh) or the viciousness of hell's works (the devil) will prevail. God's power alone can change things and bring heaven's rule (kingdom) instead, and the honor and the glory for prayer's answers are His. However, the praying is ours to do; unless we ask for the intervention of His kingdom and obey His prayer-lessons, nothing will change. All kingdom ministry begins with, is sustained by, and will triumph through prayer.

**from the *Spirit Filled Life Bible*, p. 1535**

Prayer moves the hand that moves the world.

**C.H. Spurgeon**

**1834-1892**

**British Baptist preacher, known as the "Prince of Preachers".**

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

**Corrie Ten Boom**

**1892-1983**

**Dutch watchmaker and Christian who, along with her father and other family members, helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. She was imprisoned for her actions.**

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

**Alfred Lord Tennyson**

**1809-1892**

**Poet Laureate of England during much of Queen Victoria's reign**

God will do nothing but in answer to prayer.

**John Wesley**

**1703-1791**

**Founder of the Methodist Movement**