

**Don't think of the things
you didn't get after praying.
Think of the countless
blessings God gave you
without asking.**

**"If you only pray when you're
in trouble...you're in trouble."**



Attracted to Pray



Concert of Prayer
Jovita Baptist Church
May 31, 2015

Attracted to Pray

One day I was meditating on the reason that so few Christians seem drawn to prayer. Why is it so hard to get a prayer movement going and then sustaining it in the local church? As I thought about this, I remembered seeing a magnet drawing a piece of metal by an unseen but powerful force. So I wondered, Why is it that many of us are not drawn to prayer as metal is drawn to a magnet? The simple answer of course is that we are not metallic. But what if our hearts were made of the stuff of heaven? What if we could be drawn to God like pieces of metal to a magnet? What would have to change in my heart and in yours, in order to be drawn, attracted, moved, into relationship, closeness and proximity with God? Here is a prayer I wrote that morning:

Lord, I want my heart to desire you above all amusements and distractions. Draw me into your presence with such power that I can hardly step away for even a moment. Create in me a clean heart that is anxious to spend time with you, and tune my ears to hear your voice. Draw me nearer, nearer into relationship with you."

Here are some prayer quotes I recently came across that I would like to share with you:

"The value of persistent prayer is not that He will hear us but that we will finally hear Him."

"Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a steering wheel that directs the right path throughout life."

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble, But since the power in prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." -Max Lucado

May this booklet help you draw closer to God-- *Pastor Mark*

All the Promises in the Word are Mine:

Every Chapter, Every Verse, Every Line.

"..if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14

"You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you." Job 22:27 (NIV 04)

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation." Psalm 91:14-16

The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them. Psalm 145:18-19

The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases Him. Proverbs 15:8

"Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I

will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7: 7-8

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:11

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 18:18

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19-20

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in

prayer." Matthew 21:22

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11:9-10

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

"But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." John 11:22

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13

"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:14

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." John 15:16

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." John 16:23

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:24

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." Romans 8:26

"For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit." Ephesians 2:18

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." I Peter 3:12

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

Hindrances to Prayer

The Hindrance of Sin: "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." Psalm 66:18 NIV "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18 KJV

The Hindrance of a Lack of Respect "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." 1 Peter 3:7

The Hindrance of Pride: "He does not answer when men cry out because of the arrogance of the wicked. Indeed, God does not listen to their empty plea; the Almighty pays no attention to it." Job 35:12,13

The Hindrance of Hypocrisy: "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:1

"And 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 have received their reward in full." Matthew 6:5

The Hindrance of Wrong Motives: "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3

The Hindrance of a Lack of Forgiveness "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14,15

The Hindrance of a Lack of Reconciliation "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

The Hindrance of Babbling: "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:7,8

The Hindrance of a Lack of Compassion: "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 21:13

What are some hindrances to my praying?

Prayer Facets

(F.A.C.E.T.S.) Faith, Always, Confessing, Esteeming, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

The Facet of Faith, Believing: "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Matthew 21:22 "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." James 5:15

The Facet of Always Praying: "Pray continually." 1 Thesalonians 5:17 "Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.." Psalm 55:17

The Facet of Confessing Sins: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

The Facet of Esteeming God: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalm 100:4

The Facet of Thanksgiving: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

The Facet of Supplication and Intercession: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone." 1 Timothy 2:1

Prayer Quotes

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

"God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." John Wesley

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." Sidlow Baxter

"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees." Corrie ten Boom

"Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still." E.M. Bounds

"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!" Hudson Taylor

"No learning can make up for the failure to pray. No earnestness, no diligence, no study, no gifts will supply its lack." E.M. Bounds

"The little estimate we put on prayer is evidence from the little time we give to it." E.M. Bounds

"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees." William Cowper

"He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life." William Law

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

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." Samuel Chadwick

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

Prayer should not be regarded "as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty." E.M. Bounds

"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." Adoniram Judson

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties." Oswald Chambers

"Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer, and God delivers by prayer." E. M. Bounds

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

"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." Andrew Murray

"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" E.M. Bounds

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." Oswald Chambers.

"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." R. A. Torrey

"Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part." Andrew Murray

"Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence." W. S. Bowd

"Our prayers lay the track down which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails." Watchman Nee

"Prayer is the secret of power." Evan Roberts

"We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power." Hudson Taylor

"The essence of prayer does not consist in asking God for something but in opening our hearts to God, in speaking with Him, and living with Him in perpetual communion. Prayer is continual abandonment to God. 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." Sadhu Sundar Singh

"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." R.A. Torrey

"Let this be your chief object in prayer, to realize the presence of your heavenly Father." Andrew Murray

"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer." A.T. Pierson

"There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out." Richard Halverson

"More prayer, more power. Less prayer, less power." Unknown

PRAYER JOURNAL

Keeping a prayer journal of answered prayer is a marvelous way to thank God for His answers and blessings. Record your specific prayer requests here, and then the date when the prayer is answered.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Specific Request</u>	<u>Date Answered</u>
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