

ROOTED IN PRAYER #1

Experiencing a Full and Fruitful Prayer Life

Generally speaking, there are two facets to our prayer life:

1. Pray _____ . (The environment above ground)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV 1900)

17 Pray without ceasing.

We should _____ a sense of God-consciousness throughout the day.

Our lives should be watered by the _____ of _____.

Ephesians 5:17–19 (KJV 1900)

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Colossians 3:15–17 (KJV 1900)

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

2. _____ in Our Hearts:

Ephesians 3:17–19 (NKJV)

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17–19 (NIV)

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

To dwell = 2. *katoikeo* (κατοικέω, 2730), *kata*, “down,” and No. 1, the most frequent verb with this meaning, properly signifies “to settle down in a dwelling, to dwell fixedly in a place.” Besides its literal sense, it is used of (a) the “indwelling” of the totality of the attributes and powers of the Godhead in Christ, Col. 1:19; 2:9; (b) the “indwelling” of Christ in the hearts of believers (“may make a home in your hearts”), Eph. 3:17;

- a. We cultivate God-consciousness by intentionally _____ throughout the day.
- b. We cultivate God-consciousness by _____ unto the Lord as we go about our lives.
- c. We cultivate God-consciousness by _____ with others a thought or a word from God.
- d. We cultivate God-consciousness by periodically _____ and _____ on the Word.

3. _____ (The environment below ground)

When we have regulated the climate of our daily lives through God-consciousness, “closet prayer” becomes easier and more desirable.

- a. *Closet prayer* is time _____ with God.

In Genesis 32:24 we read that Jacob was left alone and while alone he had a life altering encounter with God. We live in a world driven by the pursuit of connection. We have come to believe that *together* is good and *alone* is bad. While it is true that being with other people can be tremendously rewarding, it is also true that being alone with God has its own rewards. In our fast-pasted society, our minds have been trained to need constant social stimulation. The problem with this trend is that it allows little, if any, time for personal reflection and private connection with God. Jesus understood our need to be alone with God. He invited those listening to His *Sermon on the Mount* to enter ~~into~~ their prayer closets, close the door behind them and pray in secret.

Matthew 6:5–6 (NKJV)

5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

b. Private prayer is _____.

The private prayer:

Matthew 14:22–23 (NKJV)

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

The public result: Walking on water

Matthew 14:25 (NKJV)

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

The private prayer:

Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

The public result: Clear direction

Luke 6:13 (NKJV)

13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:

The private prayer:

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)

35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

The result: Sense of purpose

Mark 1:38–39 (NKJV)

38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

The private prayer:

Luke 5:16 (NKJV)

16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

The public result: Sense of Power

Luke 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. *And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.*

The private prayer:

Luke 9:18 (NKJV)

18 And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

The result: Revelation

Matthew 16:17 (NKJV)

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

The private prayer:

Matthew 26:36 (NKJV)

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

The result: Acceptance of the will of God

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

4. The Specifics of a Prayer Closet:

A PRAYER CLOSET REQUIRES A _____ AND _____:

Without a set time and place we will struggle to maintain a consistent prayer life. We must find a quiet place to pray where we will not be interrupted. Jesus often retreated to a secluded place.

a. The Time:

Daniel 6:10 (NKJV)

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Daniel prayed three times each day. When his enemies wanted to find him, they knew where he would be and when he would be there. Daniel had a powerful

prayer life, not because of the number of times he prayed, but because it was _____ and _____.

This “was his custom” or in other words it was a _____. Someone once said that “a habit will carry you beyond your desires.” Our prayer closet must become a daily habit.

We will never develop deep roots if our lives are not grounded with prayer closet. We must make private prayer a top priority.

It is best if we can build a consistent habit of prayer at the same time every day.

b. The Place:

Luke 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

It is important to note that Jesus had a “certain place” for prayer.

The prayer closet should be:

- i. Be somewhat _____ – somewhere you are comfortable praying verbally and for a period of time.
- ii. With _____ _____ – somewhere you can turn your phone and media off.
- iii. Be regularly _____ – somewhere you can go every day