

What Does It Take To Have A "Good Prayer Life?"

The following Scriptures address a strong majority of the different facets pertaining to Biblical prayer.

When this tool is being used in a seminar or group setting,

for discussion purposes, look up the referenced Scripture just to the right of the letter that your last name begins with.

Additionally, pick one more verse of your choosing and look it up in your Bible to possibly be used in the group discussion.

- A - Authority (In Jesus' Name) -- John 14:12-14

- B - In God's Will -- Matthew 6:9-10
- C -- Matthew 26:42
- D -- 1 John 5:14-15

- E - Agreement -- Matthew 18:19

- F - Subjects -- I Timothy 2:1-2

- G - Time Praying -- Mark 1:35
- H -- Luke 6:12
- I -- Luke 11:1

- J - Righteous Prayer -- Psalms 66:18

- K - Proper Motivations -- James 4:3

- L - Persistence -- Luke 11:8-10 and 18:1-6
- M (without foolish repetition -- Matthew 6:7)

- N - Fasting and Prayer -- Matthew 6:16
- O -- Acts 13:3

- P - Geography -- Daniel 10:13
- Q/R -- 2 Chronicles 7:14

- S - Proper Relationship Between Husband & Wife -- 1 Peter 3:7

- T - Devotion To Prayer -- Colossians 4:2-3a

- U - Praying Without Ceasing -- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

- V - Praying in the Spirit -- Ephesians 6:18

- W - The Spirit Praying For You -- Romans 8:25-28

- X - Z - Corporate Prayer -- Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42, Acts 12:5, and Acts 16:13

Note: For some there are honest differences of opinion on the issue of tongues (still active/not still active – church tongue used with interpretation/church tongue and private prayer languages, etc.) We mention it here because for a lot of Christians you cannot discuss prayer without discussing praying in tongues. Whatever your or your church's convictions, it is helpful to point out that there are not many primary scriptures on the issue, they are: Acts 2:2-4 & 11, (Acts 8: 14-17 related text), Acts 10:44-48a, Acts 19:1-6, Mark 16:17, & 1 Corinthians Chapters 12, 13, & 14.

Prayer is the conversational part (two way) of the most important love relationship in our lives. A love relationship we have with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Dr. Alvin VanderGriend

A "good prayer life" is one that realistically balances taking care of your day-to-day responsibilities of: work, family, homemaking, fellowship, rest, recreation, and ministry, while through prayer, growing in your love for the Lord, and fighting for His kingdom to come, His will to be done, and His gospel to be spread.

By using the following information, you can gain some insights concerning certain aspects of a good prayer life. An individual's life circumstances and natural gifting are important aspects affecting what a good prayer life will look like for them. Remember, certain aspects of a good prayer life are non-negotiable, while others are flexible.

1) TIME IN PRAYER - The season of life an individual is in effects how their prayer life will look.

	Super Busy I have almost no free time	Very Busy I have some free time	Pretty Busy I have a reasonable amount of free time	Not That Busy I have a lot of free time
A. PERSONAL PRAYER TIME	10-30 Minutes	15-30 Minutes	20-120 Minutes	30 Minutes To 3 Hours
B. CORPORATE PRAYER MEETINGS	At Least 1-2 Times Annually	Quarterly Or More	Monthly Or More	Weekly Or More
C. A PRAYING LIFE (pray w/o ceasing)	Practiced Throughout The Day	Practiced Throughout The Day	Practiced Throughout The Day	Practiced Throughout The Day

2) SUBJECTS OF PRAYER:

A. My Relationship With The Lord (i.e. Time spent in His presence):

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|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Worship | Confession | Thanksgiving |
| Fellowship | Listening | Personal Petitions (my needs) |

B. Intercession On Behalf Of Others:

- i. My spouse (if married) *Means Issue is Addressed on the Pink Sheets
- ii. My family
- iii. The needs of others that I am aware of
- iv. The needs of my church*
- v. Unsaved neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family*
- vi. The needs of my community and nation*
- vii. For the needs of the poor*
- viii. For the gospel to go into the whole world, and the Lord's power to be with His messengers*
 "Make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

3) BY GOD'S GRACE, PRAYING WITH LESS AND LESS OBVIOUS SINS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE

4) BRINGING THE PRAYER-ENHANCING DISCIPLINE OF FASTING ALONGSIDE SOME OF YOUR PRAYERS

5) SEEING SOME ANSWERS TO PRAYERS AS A CONFIDENCE BUILDER THAT YOU ARE PRAYING BIBLICALLY

"Teach your people to become goal setters and to make and keep specific commitments. No matter how much head knowledge a person has attained, all growth takes place at the point of commitment to action or change."