

15 Tips for Growing in Prayer and Developing a Strong Prayer Life

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · July 5, 2023

Christian Reflections to Build your Faith, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

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As Christians, prayer is an essential part of our relationship with God. It is through prayer that we communicate with our Heavenly Father, seeking His guidance, expressing our gratitude, and laying our burdens at His feet. However, sometimes we may struggle to find the words or the motivation to pray consistently. If you find yourself in this situation, fear not! Here are 15 tips that will help you grow in prayer and develop a strong prayer life, drawing inspiration from biblical examples and teachings. ?

1 Start with the Word: Begin your prayer time by reading the Bible, seeking wisdom, and guidance from God's Word. The Bible is a treasure trove of verses that can guide and inspire our prayers. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

2 Seek Solitude: Find a quiet place where you can be alone with God, away from distractions. Jesus Himself often withdrew to solitary places to pray (Luke 5:16).

3 Pray with Faith: Approach God with a heart full of faith, believing that He hears and answers prayers. In Matthew 21:22, Jesus said, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

4 Pray with Thankfulness: Express gratitude to God for His blessings, both big and small. Philippians 4:6 reminds us to "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

5 Be Persistent: Just as the persistent widow kept knocking on the judge's door until her request was granted (Luke 18:1-8), persist in prayer and don't lose heart.

6 Pray for Others: Intercede on behalf of others, lifting up their needs and concerns before God. 1 Timothy 2:1 says, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people."

7 Pray in Jesus' Name: When we pray in the name of Jesus, we acknowledge His authority and align our prayers with His will. Jesus said in John 14:13, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

8 Listen: Prayer is a two-way conversation. After pouring out your heart before God, take time to listen to His still, small voice. In 1 Samuel 3:10, the Lord said to Samuel, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

9 Pray without Ceasing: Develop a lifestyle of prayer, constantly communing with God throughout the day. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 encourages us to "pray continually."

? Pray for God's Will: Surrender your own desires and pray for God's perfect will to be done. Jesus Himself demonstrated this in Matthew 26:39 when He prayed, "not as I

will, but as You will."

11 Pray with Humility: Approach God with a humble heart, recognizing His sovereignty and our dependence on Him. James 4:10 reminds us, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

12 Pray with Boldness: Jesus encouraged us to approach God boldly in prayer, just as a child approaches their loving parent (Matthew 7:7-11).

13 Use Prayer as a Weapon: Prayer is a powerful spiritual weapon that can break chains and bring victory. Ephesians 6:18 says, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

14 Pray with a Pure Heart: Confess your sins and ask God to cleanse your heart before coming to Him in prayer. Psalm 66:18 says, "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

15 Pray with Expectation: Trust that God will answer your prayers according to His perfect timing and wisdom. Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Remember, prayer is not just a religious duty; it is a beautiful and intimate way to connect with our Heavenly Father. By implementing these tips into your prayer life, you will experience growth, deeper intimacy with God, and a stronger faith. May God bless you abundantly as you embark on this journey of growing in prayer and developing a strong prayer life. ???