

WHAT IS PRAYER?



1. Once someone asked a wise man how to set about praying. The wise man said: 'Just take a chair and put it opposite you, and think to yourself that God is sitting on that chair, and just talk to Him in the way that you would talk to your closest friend.'

William Barclay

2. To pray is to sit
Open-handed before God.

Peter G. van Breeman



3. Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue.
God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part. Listening to God's voice is the secret assurance that he will listen to mine.

Andrew Murray



4. Half the time I find my prayers are wholly wordless. It consists in a sort of spiritual sunbathing, turning myself towards the spiritual light and allowing it to revive the spirit, like the sunlight on a flower, or a mother's smile on the child. Of course this does not happen every time. There are terrible periods of emptiness and darkness. But it happens sufficiently often and it is sufficiently real to be infinitely worthwhile.

Lord Hailsham



5. You put yourself with God, empty perhaps, but hungry and thirsty for Him; and if in sincerity you can perhaps tell Him that you want to want Him; and if you cannot even say that perhaps you can say that you want to want to want Him. Thus you can be very near to Him in your naked sincerity; and He will do the rest.

Michael Ramsey



6. There is no need to talk a lot in prayer, but stretch out your hands often and say, 'Lord, as you want and as you know have mercy on me.' But if there is war in your soul, add 'Help me.' And because he knows what we need, he shows us his mercy.

Macarius the elder (of Egypt)

7. Prayer is not something that I *do*; prayer is something that I *am*.

Warren Wiersbe

8. A prayer in its simplest definition is merely a wish turned Godward.

Phillips Brooks



9. There are as many ways of praying as there are human beings. Everyone has the ability to pray and each must find their own way.

Gerard Hughes



10. Talk to him in prayer of all your wants, your troubles, even the weariness you feel in serving him. You cannot speak too freely, too trustfully, to him.

François Fénelon

11. What's important is that God is so much part and parcel of life that spontaneous mental chat becomes second nature.

Cliff Richard

12. When I pray coincidences happen, and when I do not, they don't.

William Temple

13. The best prayers have often more groans than words.

John Bunyan

14. Prayer is simply to be with God... To be with God wondering, that is adoration. To be with God gratefully, that is thanksgiving. To be with God ashamed, that is contrition. To be with God with others on our heart, that is intercession.

Michael Ramsey



15. In prayer we are never “getting a conversation going” with God. We are continuing a conversation which God has begun. If in a walk by the river my mood of anxious self-preoccupation is broken by a sudden awareness of the beauty of the sunlight reflected in the water, and the swirling of the birds, and I find myself turning to God in a brief expression of praise and appreciation, I am not starting a conversation with God. God spoke first in the language of creation wooing me back from isolation into belonging and from anxiety in life-giving awareness.

Martin Smith

16. Someone has said that God has four answers to prayer. Sometimes he says ‘Yes’. Sometimes he says ‘No’. Sometimes he says ‘Wait’. Most of all he says ‘If’. He says ‘I will help you, if you will do everything you can to help yourself.’

William Barclay

