

Daily Prayer

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Today's prayer is based on a prayer titled Living by Prayer from the Valley of Vision.

Thank you, Lord God, that you are a listening God, that you are near.

You hear and empathize with your people.

Teach me to live by prayer, to think and act as if you really are all-seeing and all-knowing,
ever ready to listen and help.

Teach me to live by your providence.

You who made everything, also maintain, direct and govern everything.

Teach me to commit myself, soul and body; my spouse, children, family, community,
nation, world and church to your wise and efficient providence.

Make my heart shapeable to your will.

May I live in prayer and honor you.

Keep me from evil, known and unknown.

Help me to see my own sin and willfulness that taints everything I do.

Help me to see also the good that I can distill from everything that comes to me,
both good and bad.

Help me learn that the point of prayer is to shape my will to yours - not the other way around,
that without this admission prayer is a futile exercise.

For me to attempt to bring your will to mine would be for me to command Jesus Christ himself,
to be above him, wiser than he:

God forbid!

Lord, deliver me from the all-inclusive laser focus of my self-absorption and self-promotion
that seems to be the defining characteristic of my generation.

Lord God, I know that prayer works best when I pray knowing something about you.

Thank you for revealing yourself in creation, the written Word and the living Word,
Jesus, your Son, through the illumination of your Spirit.

Teach me, by your Spirit, from your Word, what you already have revealed
concerning the things that please you - and the things that do not.

Teach me to pray consistently with what I should already know *YOU* want.

Thank you for the confidence that,

when you command me to pray for pardon, peace and brokenness,
it is because you already promised these things.

That giving these things shows your glory -

and also that these things are very good for me.

Help me not only to want small things,

but with holy boldness to yearn for great things

first for your people as a whole,

then for myself;

that your people, and I with them, may live to show your glory.

Teach me how wise it is for me to pray out of love, not necessity,
to pray willingly for all I have.

Thank you that I may come to you at any time
to lay out my needs to you,
knowing that you will hear.

Lord, when I walk with you bathed in prayer, there is a taste, an aroma, a *feel*,
a savor to those days -

forgive me for failing to seek you all my days.
Help me remember that seeking you in prayer is a very direct route
to an ongoing sense of your presence and that
there is no wrath like the wrath of being governed by my own lusts for my own ends.

Lord have mercy.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your presence
and your sustaining care,
purchased by Christ your Son,
and applied to me by your gracious Spirit. Amen.

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If you cannot trust God for the temporal, how dare you trust him for the eternal?

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon