

Bible Verses on Prayer

Psalms 145:18 "The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth". This verse emphasizes God's accessibility and closeness to those who approach Him sincerely and honestly, that God hears the cries of those who seek Him.

Eph. 6:18 "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones".

Phil. 4:6 "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God".

Matt. 6:6 "When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you". Our Catholic interpretation emphasizes heartfelt, sincere prayer away from distractions, promising that God, who sees in secret, will reward this devotion.

James 5:16 "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful". This encourages bringing the needs of others before God, connecting earthly prayers with the intercession of saints in heaven.

When did Jesus go off to pray in the Bible? Look at the following scriptures:

Matt. 14:23 , Mark 1:35 , Mark 6:31-32 , Luke 5:15-16 , Luke 6:12 , John 17 , Luke 22:39-44

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing". This is a core Catholic, Pauline, and scriptural command viewed as "standing orders of the gospel". It calls for a persistent state of communion with God, rather than constant vocal prayer, by integrating faith into daily life, trials, and gratitude.

- **Guidance & Wisdom:** Daily prayer is essential for seeking God's wisdom and direction in navigating life's complexities and challenges.
- **Strengthening Faith & Dependence:** It acts as a constant reminder of dependency on God rather than self-reliance, providing comfort and peace that guards hearts and minds.

The more time we spend in the Word and in the presence of God through prayer, the more our hearts will resemble that of Christ's. It is unavoidable. This is good news!

C.S. Lewis once said, *"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."*

We need prayer!

Prayer is not designed to change God's mind, but rather to align our hearts with His and prepare us to receive what His grace provides. It allows us to cultivate a relationship with God, express dependence on Him and align our will with His. We acknowledge God is in control and we rely on Him for our needs rather than our own strength.