

Scriptures and notes for July 29 Bible Class "Pray Every Day"
All quotes from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless indicated otherwise

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Why should we pray? Why is prayer good for us?

- It strengthens our faith, our trust
- It compels us to cooperate with God, transforming our lives

Hebrews 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Job 42:7-9

After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Luke 11:9-10

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Luke 5:15-16

But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Luke 6:12-13

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

John 12:27

Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.

Matthew 26:39-44

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

Conditions of acceptable prayer (adopted from James M. Tolle)

Sincerity	Godly living
Humility	Self-denial
Fervency	Consistent with God's will
Persistency	In the name of Christ
Watchfulness	Faith
Thoughtfulness	

1 Peter 4:7b

...be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Proverbs 28:9

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Hebrews 3:12-13

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

1 Peter 3:1-2,7

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Matthew 5:22a,23-24

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment... So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

James 2:13a

For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.

From Andrew Murray Dutch South African theologian (1848-1917)

Begin by acknowledging, by confessing before Him, in a childlike and simple manner, the sin of neglecting and desecrating the inner chamber. Bow before Him in deep shame and sorrow. Tell Him that your heart has deceived you by the thought that you could pray as you ought. Tell Him that through the weakness of 'the flesh,' and the power of the world, and self-confidence, you have been led astray. Come in your sin and weakness to the inner chamber, and begin to thank God, as you have never thanked Him, that the grace of the Lord Jesus will surely make it possible for you to converse with your Father as a child ought to do. Hand over afresh to the Lord Jesus all your sin and misery, as well as your whole life and will, that He may cleanse and take possession of you and rule over you as His very own.

You may be sure that deliverance will come. Expect it, and you will begin to understand that the inner chamber is the revelation of the glorious grace of the Lord Jesus, which makes it possible for one to do what he could not do himself; that is, to hold fellowship with God, and to experience that the desire and power are received which fit a man for walking with God.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

From James M. Tolle

Let us candidly examine the status of our prayer life. Are we praying without ceasing, at every season? Are we praying fervently, sincerely, humbly, trustingly? Are we praying for all men everywhere, for our enemies as well as our friends? Are we praying in confession of our sins, seeking God's forgiveness? Are we praying for our needs, spiritual as well as physical? Are we praying in thanksgiving, praise, and adoration? Are our prayers preceded by lives that strive to follow the footsteps of Jesus? Are we praying alone and with our families and Christian brethren? Are we praying in the Spirit, through Jesus Christ, the way, and the truth, and the life? Are we praying, praying, praying, until time shall vanish in the morning glow of eternity?