

# Ways to Improve Your Prayer Life

Try these helpful tips on how to have a more effective prayer life:

1. First of all, come to God as a humble person worshiping Him for who he is..
2. Examine your lifestyle; are you living your life in a way that is pleasing to God? Do you attend church regularly? Do you read your Bible daily or at least several times a week? Many people pray to God to ask Him to help them get the material things of life; but they have not submitted their lives to God in order to do the things that are pleasing to Him. If you have a child that comes to you and asks for something would you be more likely to give it to him/her if he/she is living a life you approve of or would you give it to your child even if he/she appears irresponsible in your eyes?
3. Have a specific time each day that you can pray. This way you have scheduled time for God, instead of fitting God into your schedule. It will help you to pray each day. Some people pray late at night after everyone else has gone to bed. Some pray early in the morning before everyone gets up. Some will pray during the day when everyone else is at work and school. Whatever works for you, do it!
4. When you pray, talk to God like you would anyone else. Think of how you talk to your spouse, parents or your best friend.
5. Start out your prayer thanking God for who he is and for things he has done in your life for you or for someone else.
6. Confess to God any sin in your life and ask God to help you to overcome that sin.
7. If you are praying in public (At a church service or perhaps at a family gathering) don't use the prayer as a time of gossip. Don't preach at people or throw off on people during your prayer.
8. Don't forget to keep praying for something. Don't just mention it once to God and then forget it. However, don't pray for the same thing 5 or 10 times during the same prayer. The Bible talks about using vain repetition in our prayers.
9. Find a prayer partner. There is more power in prayer when two or more are gathered together to pray and agree in prayer.
10. Don't forget to pray for other people and their needs. Your prayers aren't just about you and what you may want or need. We don't want our prayers to be self-centered; therefore you should also concentrate on asking God to help others and take care of their needs.
11. Remember that God may want to use you to answer prayers to help other people. Be willing to be used of God for His will.
12. Most importantly, feel after the Spirit as you pray and be led by the Holy Ghost and always conclude your prayer in Jesus name.

Before we begin our prayers of petitions to God, we will complete a “Spiritual Inventory for Hindrances to Prayer” in order to search ourselves that our prayers be not hindered. Here is a test that will help you see whether you have any hindrances in your prayer life. If you answer these questions honestly it can help to improve your walk with God and help improve your prayer life. It will show you areas in your life where you may need to improve. When taking this test remember that you may not know how to answer a question that you have had trouble with in the past but not today. It is advisable that if you had a problem in your spiritual walk before but not now then you can answer the question in that way or make a little note next to your answer. The important thing is to see where your strong points are and where your weak points are in your spiritual walk with God. Remember that you should never be satisfied with where you are at in your spiritual walk since everyone can improve no matter how good we think we are. Once you complete the survey, use your answers to honestly search yourself and then work towards eliminating these hindrances by submitting to God’s Word which is God’s authority. God will help you because his word are words for renewal and hope for you in your spiritual walk with God.

Spiritual Inventory For Hindrances To Prayer Adapted from Jack Taylor's Preparation for Personal Prayer		
A. Matthew 6:12, 14, 15 "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:"	Yes	No
1. Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?	_____	_____
2. Is there anyone whom you have not forgiven?	_____	_____
3. Is there anyone you hate?	_____	_____
4. Is there anyone whom you do not love?	_____	_____
5. Are there any misunderstandings that you are unwilling to forgive? And let go?	_____	_____
6. Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment or jealousy?	_____	_____
7. Anyone you dislike to hear praised or well spoken of?	_____	_____
8. Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?	_____	_____
B. Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."	Yes	No
1. Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first?	_____	_____
2. Do you make decisions after your own wisdom, rather than seeking God's will?	_____	_____
3. Does anything interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desires for recognition, money, your own plans?	_____	_____
C. Mark 16:15 "And He said unto them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.	Yes	No
1. Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ?	_____	_____
2. Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ?	_____	_____
3. Has your life not shown to the lost the Lord Jesus?	_____	_____
D. John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."	Yes	No
1. Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another?	_____	_____
2. Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another?	_____	_____
3. Are you guilty of any contention or strife?	_____	_____
4. Do you quarrel, argue, or engage in heated discussions?	_____	_____
5. Are you a partaker in any divisions, or party spirit?	_____	_____
E. Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."	Yes	No
1. Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, or money?	_____	_____
2. Have you given less than a tenth (tithe) of your income for God's work?	_____	_____
3. Have you failed to support mission work either in prayer or in offering?	_____	_____

F. I Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."	Yes	No
1. Are you dependable, punctual, and faithful in the Lord's work with responsibilities? 2. Are your emotions stirred for things of the Lord but you do nothing about it? 3. Are you doing everything (ministries) God have spoken to you about?	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
G. I Corinthians 6:19-20 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"	Yes	No
1. Are you in any way careless with your body? 2. Do you fail to care for your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit? 3. Are you guilty of intemperance in eating and drinking? 4. Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body?	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
H. Ephesians, 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."	Yes	No
1. Are you SELF-CONSCIOUS rather than CHRIST-CONSCIOUS? 2. Do feelings of inferiority keep you from attempting things you should be doing for God?	_____ _____	_____ _____
I. I Corinthians 10:31 "Whether you eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God."	Yes	No
1. Do you take the credit for anything good you do, rather than give all the glory to God? 2. Do you talk of what you have done rather than what Christ has done? 3. Are your statements mostly about "I"? 4. Are your feelings easily hurt? 5. Have you pretended to be something you are not?	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
J. Ephesians 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."	Yes	No
1. Do you underpay? 2. Do you do very little in your work? (Do others have to pull your weight?) 3. Have you been careless in the payment of your debts? 4. Do you waste time for yourself and for others?	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
K. Ephesians 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."	Yes	No
1. Do you complain? 2. Do you find fault? 3. Do you have a critical attitude toward any person or thing? 4. Are you irritable or cranky?	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____

5. Do you ever carry hidden anger?	_____	_____
6. Do you get angry?	_____	_____
7. Do you become impatient with others?	_____	_____
8. Are you ever harsh or unkind?	_____	_____
L. Ephesians 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."	Yes	No
1. Do you listen to ungodly radio or TV programs?	_____	_____
2. Do you read unworthy magazines?	_____	_____
3. Do you partake in worldly amusements?	_____	_____
4. Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?	_____	_____
5. Are you doing things that show that you are not satisfied with the Lord Jesus Christ?	_____	_____
M. Ephesians 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."	Yes	No
1. Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, bad & good?	_____	_____
2. Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His word?	_____	_____
3. Do you worry? Are you fearful?	_____	_____
4. Is your spiritual temperature based on feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word?"	_____	_____
N. Philippians 1:21 "For me to live is Christ (to live all over again), and to die is gain."	Yes	No
1. Are you taken up with the cares of this life?	_____	_____
2. Is your conversation or Heart Joy over "things" rather than the Lord and His Word?	_____	_____
3. Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?	_____	_____
O. Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without murmurings and disputings."	Yes	No
1. Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone?	_____	_____
2. Do you gossip?	_____	_____
3. Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?	_____	_____
4. Do you harbor prejudice because someone is different than you, or because they do not see everything exactly like you?	_____	_____
P. Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say Rejoice."	Yes	No
1. Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things?	_____	_____
2. Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Are you angry or disappointed with God?	_____	_____
3. Have you complained against Him in any way? Grumbled because of circumstances?	_____	_____
4. Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you?	_____	_____
5. Do you have any reservations in obeying His perfect will?	_____	_____
6. Have you disobeyed some direct leading of the Holy Ghost?	_____	_____

Q. Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his deeds."	Yes	No
1. Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation? 2. Do you ever lie, fib deceive or withhold the whole truth of a matter? 3. Do you ever exaggerate to make yourself look good? 4. Do you cheat (on taxes, expense reports)? 5. Do you steal (from your employer, or from God)? 6. Have you forgotten to return anything you borrowed?	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
R. 2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."	Yes	No
1. Do you have any personal habits that are not pure? 2. Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind? 3. Do you read that which is impure or suggests unholy things? 4. Do you indulge in any unclean entertainment? 5. Are you guilty of the lustful look? Lustful thoughts? Lustful fantasies? 6. Do you flirt with your co-workers, spouse's friends, neighbors?	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
S. Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."	Yes	No
1. Do you deliberately stay away from some church services? 2. Are you irregular in attendance at services? 3. Do you neglect to attend & participate in meetings for prayer? 4. Have you neglected/slighted daily or private prayer? 5. Have you neglected thanksgiving at meals? 6. Have you neglected family devotions?	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
T. Hebrews 13:7 "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."	Yes	No
1. Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? 2. Are you lazy in spiritual disciplines? 3. Do you rebel at requests given to you to help in the work of the gospel? 4. Do you have a stubborn streak, or an unteachable spirit?	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
U. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world."	Yes	No
1. Have you allowed yourself to become "spotted" by the world? 2. Is your manner of dress pleasing to God? 3. Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything? 4. Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy?	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____

V. James 4:6 "But He giveth more grace, Wherefore He says, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."	Yes	No
1. Do you feel that you are not as bad as others?	_____	_____
2. Are you stubborn?	_____	_____
3. Do you insist on having your own way?	_____	_____
4. Do you insist on your own "rights"?	_____	_____
W. James 3:11 "Does a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"	Yes	No
1. Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticizing his servants?		
2. Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor and other spiritual leaders?	_____	_____
3. Do you find it hard to be corrected?	_____	_____
4. Is there a rebellion toward one who wants to restore you?	_____	_____
5. Are you concerned about what people will think more than what will be pleasing to God?	_____	_____