




*Divinely Blessed & Restored*

# PRAYER: CALLING OUT!®



Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *By Sis. Doris B. Ryans*

*Phillipians 4:6-7 KJV*

Prayer: Calling Out... the title alone highlights a significant characteristic of prayer, calling out..... speaking ..... being vocal.....communicating with someone, specifically, communicating with God.

As we talk about prayer the most simplistic way to define prayer is an exchange between two people, God and you. You may ask if God already knows everything, already knows my needs, why should I pray? You pray to acknowledge Him as the Knower of your needs and the Giver of all gifts. Prayer is connecting with God, a personal conversation in order to co-labor with God to accomplish His will for your life.

What is conversation? Conversation is a two- way expression of yourself to someone and involves allowing the other person to respond and speak with you. Since prayer is a conversation between you and God, you must also allow time for you to sit still with a listening ear and provide an opportunity for God to speak to you. This sitting, waiting, allowing an opportunity for God to speak to you has been called “Sacred Listening”. Effectively listening means being still, being present, as you wait and allow God to speak to you. I know this is not as easy as it might sound, but it is something we must be committed to doing.

As we commit to prayer, we must understand why we pray and how to pray. There are three common types of prayers, intercessory, supplication, and non-directed. An intercessory prayer is asking God to intervene on someone’s behalf, a prayer of supplication is asking for a specific outcome, and non-directed prayer is asking for the highest good or “thy will be done”. Therefore, when we prayer, it is usually for one of the following reasons:

- To ask for something
- To ask that you keep something you have
- To give thanks
- To be more Christ like
- For the needs of others
- To fellowship with God

John 16:23 tell us “.....*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.* God promises:

- He will hear you
- He will be present, regardless of the outcome
- He will give you inner peace

There is a saying “*Prayer is available to each and every one of us, its up to you to make it apart of your life. There is no request too big for Him, or a problem too hard for Him, a burden too heavy for Him. He’s great enough strong enough, tender enough for anything you can ever bring to Him.*”

Charles Swindoll says, “If we’re going to have an intimate relationship with God, we need to do more than just read, study, and talk about prayer. We need to pray.” Prayer is an important part of a Christian’s life and sometimes you may be hesitant to prayer, because you feel you don’t know how to pray. We want to be sure we are authentic in our prayer. There is a difference between praying and just saying your prayers. Matthew 6:5 tell us: “*And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*” KJV The hypocrites prayed to be noticed by man. They prayed to be admired, for others to see how eloquently they could pray. They prayed out of their pride, not passion. They prayed to be praised by man. They prayed for all the wrong reasons, they just said a prayer. Authentic prayer has certain characteristics. Authentic prayer is:

- Interceding
- Petitioning
- Confessing
- Praising
- God-Centered
- Sincere
- Private
- Original
- Of Pure Motive, earnest (not bargaining)

You pray to acknowledge Him as the Knower of your needs and the Giver of all gifts.
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As we undertake a life of prayer, we must be sure that we do not fall prey to some common perils. We must make sure we are not substituting prayer for responsibility. We are not to use prayer as an excuse for irresponsible behavior. We also must make sure we are not over committed which will impact having a consistent prayer life. Our belief that “nothing can wait” easily leads to postponing prayer.... until tomorrow. Lastly, we must make sure we do not reduce prayer to a formula or ritual we engage in with no thought to what we are saying.

I challenge you to commit today to giving Prayer its daily place in your life. Commit to a daily prayer time that allows time for you to communicate with God and incline your ear to Hear what He desire to speak into your life. Before you know it you will be conversing with God as natural as you do with everyone else in your life.

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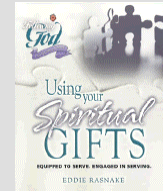
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**CALENDAR**  
*of Events*

**September 20, 2007 – November 22, 2007**

**Coffee, Tea & Thee Book Club Discussion**

**Panera Breads**  
**Allen Park, MI**  
Thursdays @  
6:00pm – 7:30 pm



Using Your  
Spiritual Gifts *by*  
**Eddie Rasnake**

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and  
upcoming events!!**