

1. **Intro Story:** Wedding Gift of books on Prayer
2. James 5:16 encourages us to pray, but we don't always have the creativity to pray intentionally.
 1. Prayer Resources:
 1. Psalms - 13, 19, 20, 51, etc.
 2. Prophets - Daniel 9, Ezekiel
 3. Gospels: Prayers of Jesus
 4. Epistles: Prayers of the Apostles
 5. Countless Prayer Guides
 6. Spirit of Prophecy book on Prayer
 7. Every Prayer in the Bible by Larry Richards
3. The Privilege of Prayer chapter by Ellen G White in Steps to Christ
 1. “When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. And the assurance He gave them that their petitions should be heard, is assurance also to us.” pg. 93
4. **Quote:** “To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder in the world.” - Karl Barth
5. **Question:** Isn't Power in Prayer counter-intuitive?
 1. **Sub-point:** Prayer is a submissive act, we bow before an omnipotent Person to bring our cares, but where does the “power” concept arise?
 2. SDABC on James 5:16 - “Prayer as a means of cooperation with the will of God (*see on Luke 11:9) contributes most to Christian endurance and character development when it ascends from the pure and faithful in heart.”
6. ***Conditions of Prayer:** “Prayer is not so much a matter of persuading God to accept our will concerning a matter as of our discovering His will with respect to it. He knows our needs before we ask; more than that, He knows what is best for us. In contrast, we are often but dimly conscious of our own need. We frequently think we need things that we do not need and that may even be harmful to us; conversely, we may not even be aware of our greatest needs (cf. COL 145). **Prayer will bring our wills, and thus our lives, into harmony with the will of God** (see COL 143).” - SDABC on Luke 11:9
7. **Concept:** A Husband who prays will gain a blessing for himself.
 1. **Text:** Ephesians 5:25-28
8. **Resource:** *The Power of a Praying Husband* book by Stormie Omartian has helped me to uplift my wife in prayer throughout our marriage.
 1. **Topics of Prayer:** Starting points in asking for God's wisdom & blessing for the Marriage
 1. emotions, fears, health, motherhood, priorities, commitment to God, her beauty, relationships, deliverance, protection, trust
 2. **Sample Prayer:** “Lord, enable me to be the head of my home and family just as You created me to be. Give me patience, understanding, and compassion & help me to be a loving, tenderhearted, and courteous to my wife just as you ask me in your Word. Enable me to love her the way that You do.”
9. **Text:** Proverbs 19:14 - “House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”
 1. Stories of combined & separate prayer journeys
 2. Fasting & seeking God for big decisions
10. **Text:** Psalm 143:8 - “Cause me to hear your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you.
11. **Concept:** A Praying Parent
 1. Story: My father prayed over me a special prayer that I would not suffer the same fate as my deceased brother.
 2. In praying for my children, I've come to find out how selfish I am...

3. **Quotes** from Stormie Omartian’s children: “She has grabbed hold of God so tightly in prayer every day that the enemy couldn’t have any of us, no matter how hard he tried to gain a foothold in each of our lives.” - Amanda
 4. “Over the course of my life, I’ve learned that being faithful to pray without ceasing is what leads to mighty things happening. It’s like clockwork!” - Christopher
- 12.
13. **Conditions to stressful?:**
1. **Need** - “There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers. One of the first of these is that we feel our need of help from Him.” SC pg. 94
 2. **Contrition** - “If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted.” - SC pg. 94
 3. **Faith** - “Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. “He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6. Jesus said to His disciples, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. Do we take Him at His word?” - SC pg. 94
14. **Example of a Parent’s prayer:**
1. **Praying for the Holy Spirit** - “May the fruit of Your Spirit grow in them daily. May they find their identity in You, view themselves as Your instrument, and know that they are complete in You.” Praying Parent pg. 82
 2. Verses to claim this prayer: 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Peter 1:10; Romans 8:28-30; Isaiah 60:1
15. **Appeal Story:** The Prayer of Faith, from Robert Morgan’s book of sermon illustrations pg. 625

The Prayer of Faith

I once spent the night in a crumbling hotel in Porto Alegre, Brazil. A friend and I ascended to our room, high in the building, in a tiny, creaking elevator. From our window I saw slums spreading out far beneath me, and I felt uneasy. That evening I prayed, “Lord, please save me from any danger of fire. You can see we’re at the top of a dilapidated hotel, which is nothing but a firetrap. There isn’t a fire station near, and I can’t see any fire escapes outside the building. Lord, you know that this building would go up in flames in a second, and at this very moment it is probably full of people falling asleep with Marlboros in their mouths . . .”

By the time I finished praying, I was a nervous wreck, and I hardly slept a wink all night. The next morning, as I evaluated my evening, I realized that my bedtime prayer had focused on my negative feelings rather than on God’s assurances and promises, and learned an important truth: Unless we plead in faith, our prayers can do more harm than good.¹