**Prayer**

**For wherever two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.
*(St. Matthew 18:20)*

And whatever you ask in my name,
I will do it for you,
so that the Father may be glorified through his Son.
*(St. John 14:13)*
Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.
*(Romans 12:2)*
Pray without ceasing,
*(1 Thessalonians 5:17)*
And the smoke of the incense,
which came with the prayers of the saints,
ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.
*(Revelation 8:4)***

**Space man says to Heart: “Earth boy! We abduct you in the name of the Planet Plixbotz! It is futile to resist!” Heart: “Resist? I've been praying for this! So what's the first stop, boys? Pluto? Venus? The crystal rings of Saturn?” Space man: “The golden arches of McDonald's. I have a hankering for a McFlurry.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

**In a Hassidic story, the disciple comes to the rabbi and says, “I have a terrible problem. I can't pray. I try to say words but nothing happens. I don't feel anything. What should I do?" The rabbi answers, “Pray for the ability to pray." *(Harold Kushner, in Who Needs God?)***

**An old story is told about a tough, weather-beaten, leather-skinned Alaskan morosely nursing drink after drink in a bar in Anchorage. He tells the bartender, with acrimony in his voice, that he has lost the faith he used to have in God. “I had a terrible accident in the Alaskan wilderness,” he confides. “My twin-engine plane went down in the tundra, hundreds of miles from civilization. I lay pinned in the wreckage for hours, believing that God would somehow help me. I cried out to God, I prayed with every ounce of strength I had left, I begged for rescue. But even as I started freezing to death, God didn’t lift a finger to help me. So now I’m done with that charade,” the Alaskan concludes bitterly, “and my faith in God is gone.” The bartender squints at the Alaskan in puzzlement. “But I don’t understand,” he protests. “You’re here, alive, telling me the story. Obviously you were saved.” “Oh, yeah, that’s right,” the Alaskan concedes. “Because finally some Eskimo came along.” *(Yitta Halberstam & Judith Levanthal, in Small Miracles of Love & Friendship)***

**Two parts of my life came together when I found out that acting could be a form of prayer. Now I offer my performances as prayers for someone I have worked with or someone who has died. I walk to the stage, and I offer that performance up for that person. *(Liam Neeson, actor)***

 **Half a world away, in a Korean orphanage, little Yee Seul waited to become part of our family. But one delay after another slowed the adoption proceedings. All I had was a snapshot of her dressed in red overalls, and some information on her background, including the English meaning of her name. Months dragged by. “Dear God,” I prayed one evening, “please promise me that Yee Seul will be part of our family soon.” To cheer me up, my husband took me to dinner at a Chinese restaurant. After our meal, I cracked open a fortune cookie. The slip of paper inside read, “Love is fragile as a flower and rare as a pearl.” Tears filled my eyes. Three weeks later, Yee Seul joined our family. We call her Caroline. But she has also kept her Korean name. It means “Flower Pearl.” *(Mary Tilghman, in Guideposts)***

**When all else fails, pray. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

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**The first recorded American thanksgiving took place in Virginia, and it wasn’t a feast. The spring of 1610 at Jamestown ended a winter that came to be called “the starving time.” The original contingent of 409 colonists had been reduced to 60 survivors. They prayed for help, with no way of knowing if or when any might come. When help did arrive, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, they held a prayer service to give thanks. *(Reader’s Digest: Strange Stories, Amazing Facts, p. 198)***

**64% of Americans say they pray more than once a day. 41% say their prayers are answered often. *(Beliefnet/U.S. News & Woirld Report, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 7, 2005)***

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**Our prayers are answered not when we are given what we ask but when we are challenged to be what we can be. *(Morris Adler)***

**For a man to argue, “I do not go to church; I pray alone,” is no wiser than if he should say, “I have no use for symphonies; I believe only in solo music.” *(George A. Buttrick, in Prayers)***

**When a request is made of us, an abbreviation is sometimes attached: ASAP. We are asked to do the task As Soon As Possible! Sometimes in our busy lives, such requests frustrate us. We don’t have the time. Perhaps these letters could be a signal first to take a breather and Always Say A Prayer! Jesus did. There were constant demands made upon Him. At such times the disciples saw what Jesus did. He prayed. Moved by His example, the disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray” (St. Luke 11:1). So Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say, ‘Father, hallowed be Your name …..’” (verse 2). *(John R. Sternberg, in Portals of Prayer)***

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**It is strange that in our praying we seldom ask for a change of character, but always a change in circumstances. *(Bits & Pieces)***

 **Johnny had been bad and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. “Fine,” said the pleased mother. “If you ask God to make you good, he will help you.” “Oh, I didn’t ask him to help me be good,” replied Johnny. “I asked him to help you put up with me.” Boys will be boys, as the old saying goes, and it’s a wise mother who accepts this fact. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**If someone attacked your faith in front of millions of people, how would you respond? Recently I watched someone respond to an attack on his faith in the most gracious way. “The occasion was the ‘Today’ show. The guest was former President Jimmy Carter, who was promoting his new book ‘Living Faith.’ President Carter was talking about his faith, which is what the book discusses. The Today Show host, Bryant Gumbel, said, “You write that you prayed more during your four years in office. I think it’s fair to say you are consistently viewed as one of the more ineffective presidents of modern times.” And then Gumbel smugly asked, “What do you think, if anything, that says about the power of prayer?” The question was incredibly rude, and Jimmy Carter might have been justified in walking off the set. The scene reminded me of other explosive exchanges between politicians and the press. But President Carter showed no emotion. Instead, he calmly answered: “Well, it depends on what you’re praying for. If I was praying for the approval of NBC, then I wouldn’t have been successful. But if I was praying to keep our country at peace; if I was praying for, for instance, all the hostages to return home safe and free; if I was praying for a nation whose integrity was never questioned; if I was praying for an administration within which there was never a breath of scandal; if I was praying for the ability to tell the American people the truth; if those were the things that were the center of my prayer, then I would say that the prayers were answered.” *(Chuck Colson, in Breakpoint)***

 **You remember the boy who prayed at night only, because he could take care of himself in the day time. Are we not much of his opinion? When the need is great, and the problem looms large, we pray. Prayer should be an attitude -- the attitude of affirmation. The small things as well as the large must be handled in this attitude. *(Nona L. Brooks, in In the Light of Healing)***

**Never pray for justice, because you might get some. *(Margaret Atwood)***

**When life knocks you to your knees, and it will, why, get up! If it knocks you to your knees again, as it will, well, isn’t that the best position from which to pray? *(Ethel Barrymore, American actress)***

**Two angels flew to earth. Each carried a basket, and wherever anyone stood in prayer, the angels stopped and went in. Schools, houses in the ghetto, expensive condos -- all were visited. Very soon the basket carried by one of the angels grew heavy with the weight of what was collected, but that of the other remained almost empty. Into the first were put prayers of petition. “Please give me this. . . Please give me that. . ." Into the other went the “Thank you" prayers. The second angel was very sorrowful to return with an almost empty basket. *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

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**Indiana basketball fans insist on having the last word – even in church. Although I live in Kentucky, I serve as pastor to a church in southern Indiana. On the Sunday morning following a victory by the Hoosiers over my Kentucky Wildcats, I chided my friend Hank as he sat in the pew. “I am sorely disappointed in Hank,” I said. “We agreed that he would not pray for Indiana, and I would not pray for Kentucky. Obviously he didn’t keep his end of the bargain.” The congregation, well-populated with Hoosier fans, chuckled. “Preacher,” Hank replied, “I didn’t pray for Indiana. I just asked God to let the best team win.” *(Gary Story, in Reader’s Digest)***

**With less than a minute to go in a tied basketball game, our team was on the free throw line. “Quick!” a child seated behind me directed a friend. “You pray in Mormon . . . and I’ll pray in Catholic!” *(Gayle Garrett, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**It is not well for a man to pray cream, and live skim milk. *(Henry Ward Beecher, in Life Thoughts)***

**There’s a nice story told of a rabbi and a priest playing golf. Before putting, the priest crosses himself. By the ninth hole he is nine strokes ahead. So the rabbi asks if the priest thinks it would be all right if he too crossed himself. “Sure, rabbi, go ahead,” says the priest. “But if won’t do you any good until you learn how to putt.” *(William Sloane Coffin, in Sermons from Riverside)***

**What’s best about prayer is that it involves very little effort and no risk. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Potshots)***

**In prayer it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart. *(Paul Lee Tan)***

**After reading the bulletin that says: “Bingo tonight after prayers,” the superior says to the Brother, “Brother, were you using the office copier for your personal use?” *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

**Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? *(Corrie ten Boom)***

**What’s best about prayer is that it involves very little effort and no risk. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Potshots)***

**A 4-year-old was asked to give the blessing before Thanksgiving dinner. As family members bowed their heads in expectation, the child began. First, the youngster thanked God for each friend, naming them one by one. Then the child thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and aunt and uncle. Next, the tyke began to thank God for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then the child paused. Everyone waited -- and waited. After a long silence, the youngster looked up. “If I thank God for the broccoli, Mom,” the child asked, “won’t God know that I’m lying?” *(Good Clean Fun web site)***

**Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers. *(Garth Brooks, country singer)***

**Dear Father, you know for what I am praying, and I trust you to help me to realize that which is best about it. *(Nona L. Brooks)***

**It always helps to have a bit of prayer in your back pocket. At the end of the day, you have to have something, and for me that is God. Jesus. My Catholic upbringing. My faith. *(Pierce Brosnan, actor)***

**When our pastor had to be away one Sunday, my husband, Warren, volunteered to lead the service. Just before he began, a parishioner asked that Charlie R’s name be added to the prayer list. Charlie had been gored by his bull. Warren began, “We have been asked to pray for Charlie R, who is in the hospital because his bull gored him.” Unable to leave it at that, he went on, “Knowing Charlie, after he gets discharged, we’re going to have to add the bull to the prayer list.” *(Linnea Dorau)***

**In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a burglar who ransacked a church apologized by leaving a message on a chalkboard, saying he needed the money for a drug habit but would appreciate being in their prayers. *(Bill Flick, in The Pantagraph, 1994)***

**A common complaint of many Catholics is that “prayer gets mechanical when you say the same old prayers from memory.” And until recently, I, too, echoed this corrosive critique. A 10-year-old convert set me straight – but fast. “You don’t pray from memory,” he said. “You pray by heart.” *(Del Miller, in Our Sunday Visitor)***

**Prayer is not only worship, it is an invisible emanation of man's Spirit, the most power form of energy that can be generated. The influence of prayer on the human mind and body is as demonstrable as that of secreting glands. As a physician, I have seen men, after all other therapy has failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the supreme effort of prayer. It is the only power of nature. Prayer is a source of luminous and self-generating energy. *(Dr. Alexis Carrel)***

**God answers all the prayers. Sometimes he answers “yes,” sometimes he answers “no,” and sometimes the answer is “you gotta be kidding.” *(Jimmy Carter, on "Larry King Live")***

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**Prayer does change things. Prayer does make things to happen quite otherwise than they would have happened had the prayer not been made. It makes no difference at all what sort of difficulty you may be in. It does not matter what the causes may have been that led up to it. Enough prayer will get you out of your difficulty, if only you will be persistent enough in your appeal to God. *(Emmet Fox, in The Sermon on the Mount, p. 11)***

**Prayer may not change things for you, but it for sure changes you for things. *(Samuel Shoemaker)***

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**At Bristol, England, in the 1830s George Muller learned that the British prison system contained some six thousand children. Their only crime: They were orphans and therefore homeless. Moved with compassion for their plight, the man resolved to provide a home for any child deprived of a mother and father. His vision became reality, and over the course of his life, he would feed, clothe, educate, and house more than 120,000 boys and girls. Although the cost for that mission of mercy ran into the millions, the man raised every dollar without once asking for money, writing a letter of solicitation, or hosting a fund-raising event. His unique method of generating the necessary financing was to pray, opening himself to God’s substance. *(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)***

**One day little Billy and Johnny were climbing around in an old apple tree. Finally they walked out on a limb, and were holding to the boughs above them. But the limb on which they were standing proved to be rotten and gave way, and the boys came tumbling down to the ground. Johnny was hurt and began to cry. But Billy got up with a smile on his face and began brushing the dirt off his clothes. “Why ain’t you hurt?” moaned Johnny. “You was out further on the limb than me.” “I prayed,” was the happy reply. “You didn’t have no time to pray,” retorted Johnny. “But it didn’t catch me, because I was already prayed up ahead,” explained Billy. “So I wasn’t scared. I know’d I’d be all right.” *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 32)***

**When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I do not, they don’t. *(William Temple)***

**Dr. Iris Keys, an internist at Baltimore’s Coppin State College Nursing Center, is an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Although Keys never imposes her religion, she always listens for “church talk” from her patients, many of whom are older black women with dangerously high blood pressure. Over the years she has learned that her religious patients are much more likely to follow strict medication, diet and exercise regimens if Dr. Keys combines medical science with comforting prayer. *(Malcolm McConnell, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Cosign: The Fillmores were not only hard pressed at home, but sometimes financial need visited the Unity rooms too. Once Charles Fillmore endorsed a note for a friend; the friend failed to meet the obligation, and Charles was asked to pay. The sheriff threatened to sell out the printing office, and for a time it looked as if the Unity work would come to a sudden end; but the Fillmores prayed and the threat was never carried out. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 115)***

**I am not much given to visions and personal revelations, but recently I had a real experience of the working of God in my life. As you know, I’ve been on a diet. I’ve been pretty good, but what a struggle. The other day I had to go downtown. As I started out I remembered the Daylight Donut Shop. They make some real world class doughnuts. Driving along I thought, “A cup of coffee and a doughnut would really hit the spot.” But then I remembered my diet. So I said a silent prayer, “God, if you want me to stop for a doughnut, let there be a parking place right in front. Sure enough, seventh time around the block.” *(Illustration Digest)***

**Curly hair: That’s what my grandmother always wanted for me. But, like the rest of the gifts in my family, I had hair that was straight and thin. Not that it mattered to me. At four, hair was nothing but a nuisance. I hated sitting still while my mother brushed and styled it. But how I cherished my fine, straight hair when it suddenly started falling out. Alarmed, Mom took me to the doctor, but he couldn't find anything wrong with me. “Sometimes it just happens. I wouldn't worry too much,” he assured us. “It'll grow back eventually.” Not worry? School was about to start. I couldn't go to kindergarten bald! We hurried home and told the rest of the family. While my mother clipped my hair short to take weight off the roots, my grandmother prayed. “Please stop Britni's hair from falling out,” she cried. “And, Lord, let it come back thick and curly,” she added with a wink. After three weeks my hair did stop coming out, but as it grew back, it seemed different. Wavier than before, thicker. It was coming, in curly. Extremely curly! I am now 15 years old and my hair is as curly as a fresh perm. Even strangers comment on it! Most days I like my hair, but it can be a real pain to tame. Sometimes as I wrestle to comb through my corkscrew locks. I think: Be careful what you pray for, because you just might get it! *(Britni Radojits, in Guideposts)***

**Actress Dina Merrill was teaching her three-year-old daughter, Nina, to say her prayers. The child was mumbling and her mother said, “I can’t hear you.” Nina looked solemnly at her mother and replied, “I wasn’t talking to you.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**We sometimes think that we pray when we read and declare certain statements of Truth. We have very little idea of the way in which the answers to those prayers are coming. And we do not prove that, we expect them to be answered. For almost immediately after praying we go on doing the things we have been doing, which does not allow any answers. And we think and say that which is not in accord with the prayers we have made. For example, we go into the silence and declare statements of prosperity. Then in writing a letter we speak of lack and failure and longing. Which proves that we have those thoughts and feelings of lack in our heart, and that we are really dwelling on them more strongly than we do on the Truth that we have prayed. *(Myrtle Fillmore’s Healing Letter’s, p. 33)***

**Man’s true estate is spiritual. He is essentially God’s man, and he must eventually become conscious of this fact. How does he do this? By “judging himself to be wondrously made.” This is a definition of the word “prayer” as it is literally translated from the ancient Sanskrit word for prayer, “palal.” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 22)***

**I never went to bed in my life and I never ate a meal in my life without saying a prayer. I know my prayers have been answered thousands of times, and I know that I never said a prayer in my life without something good coming of it. *(Jack Dempsey)***

**There was a cartoon in Leadership magazine showing a preacher and a couple of disgruntled parishioners bowing their heads to pray together. The pastor looks at the two men and says, “With our current hard feelings, would anyone mind if I prayed with my eyes open?” *(King Duncan and Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 97)***

**There are times when our demonstration seems to be slowed down. This is the time to recognize that there is something called divine delay. This means that the timetable we have set is being slowed down for a wonderful reason. There is a greater good which is going to take place if we will just wait patiently for our results. *(Penny Moon)***

**My mother always told me God hears every prayer. If I’d pray really hard for something and nothing happened, she would say, “Sometimes God’s answer is no.” But what if God just doesn’t answer right away? You could be 42, your needs will have changed, and all of a sudden you look out at your front yard one morning and there’s a Shetland pony!” *(Mary Armstrong, comedian)***

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**The friend listened patiently and then made a suggestion: “Don’t prey on him. Pray for him.” *(Mary Manin Morrissey)***

**While our friends from India traveled around California on business, they left their 11-year-old daughter with us. Curious about my going to church one Sunday morning, she decided to come along. When we returned home, my husband asked her what she thought of the service. “I don’t understand why the West Coast isn’t included, too,” she replied. When we inquired what she meant, she added, “You know, in the name of the Father, the Son and the whole East Coast.” *(Ann Spivack, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When you are all fouled up, I don’t want you praying for me. I got enough problems. *(Walter Fiscus)***

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**Over twenty years ago my college roommate told me a story I’ve never forgotten. After learning the basic meaning of prayer from her parents, a nine year old girl went happily off to bed. As she slept she dreamed she entered a church where three people were kneeling in prayer. As she drew nearer, she noticed beside each person was a dove. The first bird was beautiful to behold but when she touched it the dove fell apart, having nothing but a crust. So I was with the prayer uttered beside the dove, beautiful on the outside but nothing on the inside. The dove beside the second person began to fly toward the ceiling but just as it was about to fly out of the church and soar to heaven, it sputtered and fell to the ground. This symbolized the prayer that starts off in the blaze of glory but after awhile the mind goes to other things and the meaning of the prayer is lost. The third dove was not as beautiful as the first nor did it get off as gracefully as the second but as it ascended to the steeple, it did not falter. It continued in its path and soared into the heavens. Here was a prayer that got through--that successfully made its way to God. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 133)***

**A Sunday-morning Bible class was discussing prayer and how we can pray. One man told the class, “I do some of my best praying while I’m driving.” His wife, sitting next to him, smiled and quickly added, “That’s really interesting, honey. I do some of my best praying while you’re driving!” *(George Kottwitz, in The Lutheran Witness magazine)***

**The purpose of prayer is not to influence God to grant you special favors, but rather to remind yourself that you are always connected to God. *(Dr. Wayne W. Dyer)***

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**It is easier to pray for four million people than to pray for one, because I stand the thought of leaving anyone out. *(Walter Fiscus)***

 **Praying is so easy, you can do it with your eyes closed! *(Anonymous)***

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**The quieter the mind, the more powerful, the worthier, the deeper, the more telling and more perfect the prayer is. *(Meister Eckhart)***

**If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. *(Meister Eckhart)***

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**Prayer gives you courage to make the decisions you must make in crisis and then the confidence to leave the result to the Higher Power. *(General Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**More than 120 Indian elephants were given a month-long holiday from their usual lives of hard work by a project initiated by the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the UNI news agency reported. The elephants, most of which either belong to private owners or work in temples, were pampered with special food and medical treatment at the Theppakadu forest. The animals were allowed to recuperate in a 15-acre range, tended to by more than 150 “mahouts" or elephant handlers and doctors. Before returning to a life of labor, the pachyderms were lined up for a prayer ceremony to ward off evil spirits. *(Steve Newman, in Rocky Mountain News, December 23, 2003)***

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**No man ever prayed heartily without learning something. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson, in Nature)***

**The wise man in the storm prays to God not for safety from danger, but the deliverance from fear. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

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**Pray as if everything depended on God, and work as if everything depended upon man. *(Francis Cardinal Spellman)***

**As we grow in understanding of the Truth of our relationship with God, as we begin to see ourselves in the light of our divinity, prayer becomes an experience in the silence. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You)*
Once Unity was in serious financial straits. Bills that had to be paid were piling up, and there did not seem to be money enough to meet the pay roll.  The Fillmores called their staff together to pray about the matter. One of the staff said, “Let us pray that the money holds out.” “Oh, no,” whispered Myrtle Fillmore, “let us pray that our faith holds out.” *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 17)***

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**Prayer is the exercise of faith in the presence and power of the unseen God. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 11)***

**Charles & Myrtle Fillmore had learned to pray at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances and they never let what was going on around them keep them from praying. Sometimes on Sunday morning after the service, Charles Fillmore would come down from the platform and see someone who was in need of prayer. Right there in the front row of the chapel with people talking and laughing and milling about them, he would have the one who needed help sit down beside him, and it would be as if the two of them were completely alone. In the midst of the confusion, he would sit quietly, close his eyes, and speak words of prayer with the one in need. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 163)***

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**Governor William Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth: “Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1458)***

**The flight had been long and bumpy, and my heart sank as the pilot announced that there was fog at London’s Heathrow Airport and that, unless it cleared quickly, we would be forced to divert to Manchester. A clergyman sitting beside me closed his eyes and mouthed a silent prayer. A few minutes later we were asked to fasten our seat belts for a landing at Heathrow. Turning to my neighbor, I congratulated him on his successful appeal to “headquarters.” “On the contrary,” he sighed. “I live in Manchester.” *(P. Moss, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A young girl was quite fond of her little doll. One day, not watching where she was going, she tripped and fell. When she got up she found that her doll was badly damaged. Her brother, who saw all this, laughed when he saw the broken doll. “Laugh all you want,” she told him, “but I am going to pray to God to fix my doll.” “Oh, yeah? He won’t even answer you,” jeered the brother. “I’ll bet he will,” the girl replied with complete conviction. The girl began to pray and her brother went away to play. When he returned a few hours later there was the doll, still in pieces. “Looks like you lost the bet,” he taunted. “God didn’t answer you at all.” “Oh, yes he did,” the girl replied. “God said, ‘No’.” *(Paul J. Wharton, in Stories and Parables, p. 28)***

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**Bob is taking a walk when his foot gets caught in some railroad tracks. He tries to pull it out, but it gets wedged in tighter. Then Bob spots a train bearing down on him. Panicking, he starts to pray, “Please, Lord. Get my foot out and I’ll stop drinking.” But it’s still stuck. As Bob struggles to free himself, he prays again, “Please! Help me and I’ll stop drinking and cussing.” Still nothing. “I’m begging you, Lord,” Bob pleads. “Let me live and I’ll stop drinking, cussing and I’ll give all my money to the poor.” Suddenly, his foot slips free and Bob lunges to safety as the train thunders past. “Whew,” says Bob. “Thanks anyway, God, I took care of it myself.” *(Chris Parke)***

**The only footprints on the sands of time, that will really last, are the ones made after knee-prints! *(C. W. Renwick)***

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**From the Princeton Class of ‘41 Notes: “My wife and I prayed every night for children until we discovered that’s not the way to have them. Now we have five.” *(Malcolm S. Forbes, in Forbes magazine)***

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**Prayer does change things. Prayer does make things to happen quite otherwise than they would have happened had the prayer not been made. It makes no difference at all what sort of difficulty you may be in. It does not matter what the causes may have been that led up to it. Enough prayer will get you out of your difficulty, if only you will be persistent enough in your appeal to God. *(Emmet Fox, in The Sermon on the Mount, p. 11)***

**Realize that prayer is a visit with God and should be restful and joyous -- not an unwelcomed task. An understanding joy in living is the highest prayer of all. *(Emmet Fox)***

**If your prayers are not being answered, search your consciousness and see if there is not someone whom you have yet to forgive. Find out if there is not some old thing about which you are very resentful. If you cannot forgive at present, you will have to wait for your demonstration until you can, and you will have to postpone finishing your recital of the Lord’s Prayer too. *(Emmet Fox, in The Sermon on the Mount, p. 188)***

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**Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening. *(Mohandas K. Gandhi)***

**Standing near a Hollywood Chevron station charging $3.43 gallon for unleaded gas, a prayer group asked God this week to comfort those paying more. “These high gas prices, Lord, bring them down,” Bishop Donald Downing, pastor of Heart to Heart Christian Center in Fort Washington, Maryland, prayed. The group hopes to induce the same miracle the effort’s organizer, Pray Live, says it brought about when fuel prices dropped in late April. *(Los Angeles Daily News, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, May 19, 2006)***

**You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance. *(Kahlil Gibran)***

**Mother: “Sometimes God answers our prayers “Yes” and sometimes it’s “No.” Child: “What if it’s not a yes or no question?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**Steve wanted to qualify for an amateur golf tournament but was anxious about who would be watching. At the first tee, he was appalled to find a TV crew. Muttering a prayer, Steve hit the ball 275 yards down the fairway. Trying to appear nonchalant, a relieved Steve strode off toward his ball. His partner ran after him. “Aren’t you going to bring your clubs?” he asked. *(Andrea Fust, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A minister who was a keen if somewhat erratic golfer approached the green and was advised by his caddie to use a Number 3 iron. “I think I can make it with a 4,” answered the minister. But when the ball landed in a trap short of the green he commented, “Well, I guess the good Lord didn’t hear me.” “Could be,” snapped the caddie, “but in my church when we pray we keep our heads down.” *(Herm Albright, in Golf Digest)***

**You can always tell the golfers in church. They are the ones who use interlocking grips when they put their hands together to pray. *(Jim Reed, in Catholic Digest)***

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**Dolly: “Does God answer prayers on Good Friday or is this His day off?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God. *(Rev. Billy Graham)***

**I know we can’t solve our problems alone. We need God’s help. We must not be afraid to bring God back into our lives. That doesn’t mean getting religion directly involved in politics. Long ago, when the Constitutional Convention was deadlocked and it looked like it might dissolve, Ben Franklin reminded his colleagues how important prayer had been to the new nation during its battle with England. Do you know, they prayed, and it was a turning point. I don’t mean everybody must worship in the same way, but we must all find our love for God and put our love into action. *(Rev. Billy Graham, in Parade magazine)***

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**I moved to Nashville in 1954, ready to start making some records of my own. I made my first appearance at the Grand Ole Opry not too long after. I stepped out onto the stage so shaky I was afraid I was going to break a guitar string on my first note. I took a look out at those wooden pews that I’d first sat in years before, all full of people looking at me, and said a short, silent prayer: “Lord, thank you for putting me where I’ve wanted to be for so long. You are too good.” *(Porter Wagoner, in Guideposts magazine)***

**A respected mentor once remarked, “Grandma, in her rocking chair, praying to the Lord for mercy to the nations, may be doing more to change the course of history for good than those who walk the halls of the United Nations.” Jesus points to children and says, “Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). Truly, what the world might deem less important is greatly significant in God's kingdom. *(Thomas R. Zehnder, in Portals of Prayer)***

**A thought to remember: When it’s hardest to pray is when you should pray the hardest. *(Reminisce magazine)***

**Salma Hayek attributes the development of her career-enhancing breasts to divine intervention, says In Touch. As a teenager, Hayek was flat-chested, and in her despair she decided to ask for God's help. “I went to a church that was supposed to do miracles and I put my hands in holy water and I said, “Please God, give me breasts," Hayek says. Within just a few months, she began to swell into her current shape. *(The Week magazine, June 23, 2006)***

**In our parish Joseph came to school with his head in a cast. He was very self-conscious about it, and when it was his turn to lead the prayers, he always said, “Let us pray that God will hurry up and get this thing off, we pray to the Lord.” Finally, he came to school without the cast. This time his prayer was, “Gee, God, I’m sure glad that thing is off. Everyone tells me I’m beautiful now. Thanks a lot, we pray to the Lord.” *(Sister Mary Ora, in Catholic Digest)***

**If your day is hemmed in prayer, it is less likely to unravel. *(Ken Hittle)***

**Women are always involved in spiritual affairs. All of the women I ever asked out said that I didn’t have a prayer. *(Bob Hope)***

**Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. *(Victor Hugo)***

**An arrogant tycoon once told his minister that there really was no need for him to pray ever again. After all, he had everything -- he was young, rich, and good looking. After hearing this, the minister said, “Well, you might want to pray for humility.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The Wednesday-night church service coincided with the last day of hunting season. Our pastor asked who had bagged a deer. No one raised a hand. Puzzled, the pastor said, “I don’t get it. Last Sunday many of you were missing because of hunting season. I had the whole congregation pray for your deer.” One hunter groaned, “Well, it worked. They’re all safe.” *(Arla Ford, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Wife: “You and Herb are going ice fishing tomorrow? You’ll freeze!” Blondie: “Naw, ice fishing is a macho thing. We can handle it.” Daughter: “Mr. Woodley said he can’t make it tomorrow. He has the sniffles.” Blondie: “Sniffles? Why that lily-livered wussy!” That evening, while kneeling beside his bed after his wife goes to sleep, he says to God: “Thank you, dear Lord.” *(Dean Young & Denis Lebrun, in Blondie comic strip)***

**My four-year-old granddaughter, Caitlin, was impatient for a sibling. One morning she told her mother, “Maybe if we both prayed out loud, God would hear us.” So they prayed together. As soon as they finished, Caitlin asked, “What did he say?” Her mother explained that it doesn’t work that way; sometimes it takes a long time to get an answer. Caitlin was indignant” “Do you mean we were praying to an answering machine?” *(Virginia Bette, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The computer screen reads: “To:GOD@HEAVEN.ORG. Subject: “REQUESTS.” One minister looks at another and says: “It may be impersonal, but it’s improved my answer-to-prayers 200%.” *(The Joyful Newsletter)***

**George Muller said that the most important part of prayer was the fifteen minutes after he had said “Amen.” *(Paul Lee Tan)***

**The exercise of prayer, in those who habitually exert it, must b e regarded by doctors as the most adequate and normal of all the pacifiers of the mind and calmers of the nerves. *(William James, in Essays on Faith and Morals)***

**Good week for answered prayers, after the launch in Italy of a line of designer Islamic jeans. “Al Quds" jeans feature extra-large pockets to hold personal effects during prayer, sacred-green stitching, and extra fabric to facilitate kneeling. *(The Week magazine, March 31, 2006)***

**An old Jewish legend tells about a little farm boy who had been left an orphan at an early age and was unable to read. But he had inherited a large, heavy prayer book from his parents. On the Day of Atonement he brought the prayer book into the synagogue and laid it on the desk. He then cried out, “Lord of Creation, I do not know how to pray. I do not know what to say. So I give you the entire prayer book.” In the same village there was an old man who on the Day of Atonement over-slept and missed the service. That meant that the prayers offered did not include him. Not knowing how to pray by himself, he devised this plan. He repeated the letters of the alphabet over and over and asked God to arrange them into the words of an appropriate prayer. Both prayers were acceptable because of the faith of those who offered them. *(Mark Trotter, in Grace All the Way Home)***

**I keep a prayer journal, and one evening I was feeling especially discouraged as I wrote my entry. I filled page after page with my litany of complaints, working myself into a lather of self-pity. I asked God to send me a miracle. I started flipping back through the pages of my journal and reading past entries. Each one included my prayer requests. The more I read, the more I saw how I had been blessed: I hadn’t even noticed that many of my requests had already been answered. A sick friend was now healthy; a troubled marriage was growing stronger. The miracle that night was not that all my complaints to God were answered the way I expected them to be, but the quiet reminder that God takes care of everything, maybe not exactly as we might have planned and maybe not at the moment we ask, but in his own way and his own time. That’s more than enough miracle for me. *(Jodi Lewis, in Guideposts)***

**Justices bless legislative prayer: A sharply divided Supreme Court ruled this week that local legislatures can pray before meetings, even if thoseinvocations overwhelmingly reflect the beliefs of just one religious group. In a 5-4 decision along ideological lines, the majority ruled that the town of Greece, New York, did not violate the Constitution’s prohibition of state-sanctioned religion by opening its monthly meetings with chaplain-led prayers, even though the vast majority of the preachers were Christian. *(The Week magazine, May 16, 2014)***

**A little lad was keeping his sheep one Sunday morning. The bells were ringing for church, and the people were going over the field, when the little fellow began to think that he, too, would like to pray to God. But what could he say? He had never learned a prayer. So he knelt down and commenced the alphabet -- A, B, C, and so on to Z. A gentleman happening to pass on the other side of the hedge heard the lad’s voice, and, looking through the bushes, saw the little fellow kneeling with folded hands and closed eyes, saying, “A, B, C.” “What are you doing, my little man?” “Please, sir, I was praying.” “But what are you saying your letters for?” “Why, I didn’t know any prayer, only I felt that I wanted God to take care of me and help me to care for the sheep; so I thought if I said all I knew, he would put it together and spell all I want.” “Bless your heart, my little man. He will. He will. He will. When the heart speaks right, the lips can’t say wrong?" *(Our Sunday Afternoon)***

**A mother drove to the pharmacy to get a prescription for her ill daughter. She returned to her car to find her keys locked inside. She got a coat hanger from the pharmacy, then quickly prayed, “Lord, help me. I don’t know how to do this.” Just then, a dirty, bearded, tattooed man approached her. The woman thought, “Great, Lord. This is who You sent to help me?” The man asked if he could help. “Yes, my daughter is sick. I must get home to her. Can you open my car with this hanger?” “Sure.” In seconds the car was opened. She hugged the stranger and said, “Thank you. You’re a very nice man.” The man replied, “Lady, I ain’t nice. I just got out of prison for car theft.” The woman hugged the man again and cried out loud, “Thank you, Lord, for sending a professional!” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

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**Seen while passing by a church: “Get in touch with God by knee mail.” *(Dorothy Czarnecki, in Reader’s Digest)***

**There is a parable when I stoop before the fireplace; the truth of the parable is “you have to kneel in order to light a fire.” *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 131)***

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**Since our yard needed a trim, I figured it would be a nice surprise if I could get it done before my husband, Hap, arrived home from work. I pushed our lawn mower out from the shed, but the engine wouldn’t start. I pulled the starter cord over and over. Still the mower just sat there, maddeningly dormant. “God,” I said, frustrated, “if you will just start this mower for me, I promise I won’t bother you with anything trivial ever again!” I yanked the cord once more. The motor came to life with a satisfying purr and I energetically attacked the yard. Before long, the job was done. I reached down and switched the lever to off. The motor stayed on. I wiggled the lever back and forth, but still the engine didn’t die. I pushed the mower forward and back, fiddled with the throttle and gear knobs and again moved the lever to off. The motor didn’t miss a beat. I shot a suspicious look upward. Now what do I do? I was determined to keep my end of the bargain, so that didn’t give me much to do. When Hap got home a few minutes later, he said, “Honey, the lawn looks great. But why’s the mower still running?” “God’s teaching me a lesson,” I said. At his odd look, I explained my hasty promise. We went out to investigate, and Hap tinkered with the motor. Nothing he did stopped the rumbling. Finally, he twisted out the spark plug and the engine died. “Well, that’ll teach you to ask for it to start and stop next time,” he chuckled. Not only does God answer prayers, he also has a sense of humor. *(Marilyn Evans, in Guideposts magazine)***

 **One thing to learn is to be led in prayer. I’m apt to think of prayer as my initiative. I realize I have a need or I am happy, and I pray. The emphasis is on me, and I have the sense when I pray that I started something. But what happens if I go to church? I sit there and somebody stands before me and says, “Let us pray.” I didn’t start it: I’m responding. Which means that I am humbled. My ego is no longer prominent. Now that’s a very basic element in prayer, because prayer is answering speech. *(Eugene Peterson, in A Monk Out of Habit)***

**They say over in France the wine region is going through an incredible heat wave, destroying all the crops. The crops are ruined and this has devastated the French economy. Proving once again: Prayer works. *(Jay Leno)***

**President Bush might have knee surgery this year. Here’s how he hurt his knee. He’s been spending too much time praying that the Democrats will nominate Howard Dean. *(David Letterman)***

**I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God; it changes me. *(C. S. Lewis)***

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**Many years ago when I was hospitalized with the second of four nervous breakdowns, I was feeling a lack of faith. I couldn’t at that time say any special prayer, and I didn’t have my precious rosary with me. I was sick and felt lonely for Jesus and Mary and my dear family. One day I was sitting in the recreation room next to another patient. I began to tell her about my fears of losing my faith. Her words were like a God-sent answer. “I never use popular prayers in places like this,” she said to me. “I acknowledge my life as a prayer and give it to God humbly every day.” I am well again, but I have never forgotten her words and what it did to strengthen my faith when the need was so great. Now, at those times when I can’t say formal prayers, while working or in pain, I remember her advice: Let your life be your prayer. *(Patricia Mullen, in Catholic Digest)***

**Perhaps his prayers really were answered because his “life-prayer” was the message he sent twenty-three and a half hours of every day. It this sounds harsh, just remember the idea of our entire lives being a prayer. What was the overall message of that man’s life? That was his true prayer. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafola, in The Quest, p. 117)***

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**Listening is the key to prayer. It is the place where truth leaves the intellectual mind of reason and enters the soul where it is experienced. This shifting makes a kind of spiritual change of chemistry in a person. Actually, the change affects even our material bodies. In the transition from larva to butterfly, the worm attaches itself to a limb, weaves a cocoon around itself, goes into a kind of meditative state, and changes its chemistry, resulting in a totally new body which emerges as a butterfly. (Walter Starcke, in The Ultimate Revolution)**

**I have lived to thank God that not all my prayers have been answered. *(Jean Ingelow)***

**On the front of a church: “We have a long praying record.” *(King Duncan and Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 147)***

**I know of a manufacturer who likes to drive back and forth to work so that he can think about business problems without interruption. “One morning,” he relates, “I suddenly realized that problems were always coming up that I had not anticipated. How could I think about crises before they ever happened? Only by prayer. Right there I began to pray that I might meet wisely and well the problems of the day ahead. I arrived at my office feeling refreshed and confident, and I had one of my best days. I soon realized that I had hit upon a wonderful technique. Instead of praying to get pulled out of troubles, I was now conditioning myself in advance to make calm, rational and sound decisions on any problem that came up.” *(Fulton Oursler)***

**God has not always answered my prayers. If He had, I would have married the wrong man -- several times. *(Mrs. Billy Graham)***

**Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with. *(Peter Marshall)***

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**Every great movement can be tracedto one kneeling figure. *(Dwight L. Moody)***

**A man who prays much in private will make short prayers in public. *(Dwight L. Moody)***

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**The softball game between members of our church and a local synagogue was tied until the bottom of the ninth inning, when our pastor hit the game-winning home run. He jokingly attributed his success to the benediction he had given before the game. The following week we presented him with a trophy inscribed “Most Valuable Prayer.” *(E. Kramer, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The soul of prayer is a soul of profound silence. We must get accustomed to the silence of the spirit and tongue. We need to find God, and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. *(Mother Teresa)***

**An executive was notified that he was being transferred from a midwest office to New York. His small daughter, having lived all her short life where they were, was very unhappy about the move. The night before the moving van came she was saying her prayers. She went through the usual “God bless Mommy and Daddy,” then added, “I guess I’d better tell you, too, God, that this is goodbye. I won’t be able to pray to you any more – we’re moving to New York.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Bill Moyers, who was an ordained Baptist minister during the time he was President Johnson’s press secretary, was saying grace at a White House dinner one evening. Johnson was seated at the other end of the table and was having trouble hearing. “Speak up,” he said, “I can’t hear you.” “I wasn’t talking to you,” replied Moyers. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**At Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone Park, one of the grandest shows in nature, where that dazzling white plume of water shoots up 90 feet in the air toward the blue sky, park rangers say that the question most frequently asked there by tourists is, “Where’s the bathroom?” Imagine, in the presence of such majesty, such a mundane question! Just so, in the presence of the infinite majesty of almighty God, we often ask in prayer for such mundane things. If we ask more frequently for hearts of trust and love and joy and peace, then, as Jesus promised, “It will be done for them by my Father in heaven.” *(Robert Stackel, in The Clergy Journal)***

**Prayer And Our Nation: Prayer in 1620 safely guided the Mayflower with the Pilgrims to a new world. Prayer in 1623 saved the Pilgrim Fathers from starvation. Prayer in 1777 at Valley Forge saved the Continental Army and won the war of American Independence. Prayer at Philadelphia saved the Constitutional Convention and gave birth to the American Way of Life. Prayer in 1857 saved America from economic destruction. Prayer in 1918 ended World War I and lack of prayer started World War II. Prayer saved England at Dunkirk. Myriads of fliers and service men of all nations lost at sea were saved through prayer. *(Church Chimes)***

**So often I call upon you to pray when my heart is heavy, and my needs are great. But too often, I neglect to include you in the celebration when my heart is overflowing with joy and my needs have been met. *(Cecelia Kingston)***

**A high percentage of new cars sold in Japan have their first “service” at a temple or shrine rather than at a garage. In a form of religious insurance taken out by an increasing number of Japanese motorists, drivers take their new vehicles to the temple gate for a blessing ceremony. A Buddhist or Shinto priest is summoned, and the doors, hood and trunk are opened. Hundreds of thousands of new cars are given this special benediction annually. *(The Daily Telegraph, London)***

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**First of all, we need to establish one thing. God always answers prayer, even if the answer is “no.” *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**No matter where you stand on the prayer-in-school issue, one truth cannot be denied: Children will pray as long as they get math tests. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**It is not enough to say prayers, one must be prayer. One should not offer what one has, but what one is. *(Paul Evdokimov)***

**The object of most prayers is to wangle an advance on good intentions. *(Robert Brault)***

**The oldest known letter in Myrtle Fillmore’s handwriting, dated September 7, 1891, says in part: “My dear, you ask why you do not enter into the understanding you so desire. I will tell you. You are already in it, but think you have some great thing to do to get there. The kingdom of God is within you! All you need to do is ‘Be still and know.’” *(Unity Progress Newsletter, 1993)***

**If one person prays in a spirit of love and faith and lifts himself into oneness with God, then all who are attuned in thought with him are lifted into that oneness, no matter whether they are sitting side by side or are on opposite sides of the earth. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 84)***

**Spring is when a boy mantis sees a girl mantis and finally realizes what he's been praying for. *(Robert Orben)***

**Some prayers are answered almost at once. Others take longer -- usually because it takes longer for us to accept the answer we are seeking. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**When the outlook is bad, try the up-look! *(Paul Lee Tan)***

**An Italian mayor was shocked when the Catholic Church sent his tiny village an overdue bill for $25,000--to pay for an astounding 360 years of special masses! The church is charging the village of Levico Terme about $70 a year for annual religious services they’ve been performing since 1630. “The church tells me my town requested these masses back in the 17th century when it was afraid of being wiped out by the plague,” said a stunned Mayor Giuliano Gaigher. And church officials have the original 1630 contract that calls for seven masses a year, including an organist and a choir. The charge: about $10 a mass. “The bill was discovered when someone opened an old dusty record book,” said Gaighter. “Vatican officials say the church has upheld its part of the bargain -- and now we have to pay up. But it’s absurd for Levico Terme to cough up $25,000 for something designed to protect us from a plague which hasn’t been around for hundreds of years! We’re now trying to work out a deal with the church. Hopefully, there’s a less costly solution.” *(The National Enquirer, February 27, 1990)***

 **On our way to watch the homecoming parade, I asked our then 3-year-old if she knew what a parade was. “Yes,” she affirmed. “I pa-rayed for you, Daddy, Jacob, Nana and Papa last night.” *(Kelly Scott, in Country Woman)***

 **There is a sign on my office door that reads, “If a church wants a better pastor, it can get one by praying for the one it has.” *(Rev. Mark J. Nicolaus, in The Lutheran Witness)***

 **At Corinth Paul preached his way into jail and prayed his way out. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 133)***

 **On November 13, 1998, war ships were preparing to launch an assault against the Iraqi people. Later that night millions of people in at least 80 countries stopped what they were doing for ten minutes to “Pray Peace” for that terrible situation. Little did we know that at the same moment people gathered to pray, President Clinton ordered the bombing to begin. The jets were in the air and the missiles were made ready. But then something happened that no one expected. Twice that night President Clinton gave stand down orders and called the jets back to the ships. To this day no one knows exactly what happened, but it was as if the bombs could not fall with the force of so many people praying and sending their feelings of peace. At least for one night no bombs fell and no one died. *(A letter from Doreen Virtue, Gregg Braden & James Twyman)***

**Prayer doesn't change things for us, it changes us for things. *(Norman Vincent Peale)***

**The value of persistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will finally hear Him. *(William McGill, in Simpson’s Contemporary Quotations)***

**After my daughter and her family returned from their vacation in Florida, we probably went a little overboard complimenting the pictures of everybody playing on the beach. That night when 4-year-old granddaughter said her prayers, she ended with, “And thank you, Lord, for making us all so good-looking.” *(Bivian Collins, in Country magazine)***

**One morning at Mass, our youngest son became quite troublesome. At first I gave him a stern fatherly stare, and motioned for him to calm down. When he refused, I took hold of his arm and suggested that he sit still -- but again to no avail. Then, I thought I’d relate the purpose of our Sunday morning visit. “Please stop and do me a favor,” I said, “and say a prayer for your father.” My son looked at me with innocence, “Dad,” he replied, “I have already prayed for you twice.” *(Larry J. Weimer, in Catholic Digest)***

**The following poem says it all. It was written by an anonymous soldier more than 100 years ago and was found on a battlefield during the Civil War. He knew the true meaning of Thanksgiving: “I asked God for strength that I might achieve, I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for help that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy, I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of man, I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life, I was given life that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed.” *(Ken Magid)***

**Why is one of the bullets that almost killed Pope John Paul II in Portugal? One of the 9mm bullets that seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in the 1981 assassination attempt was placed in a reliquary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in central Portugal. The pope gave the bullet as a gift because he believed his hospital prayers to Fatima saved his life. *(Nino Lo Bello, in The Incredible Book of Vatican Facts and Papal Curiosities)***

**When it looks as if God isn’t coming through on His promises, you can’t assume He’s going to withhold good from you. He never withholds, but sometimes postpones the delivery of His blessings, if by a postponement He can bring you greater good in the end. God will sometimes postpone His blessing to get a chance to purify you. God’s motive is solely for your ultimate good. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen)***

 **The person who is in the midst of poverty and prays and prays that he be lifted out of the poverty, giving emphasis to how dreadful and terrible the poverty is, will find that nothing good will happen. He may have a reward of some sort. He may start in the direction of peace, but giving the attention to poverty will only produce more poverty. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**The recipe for the praline candies made by the six Sisters of the St. Benedictine Monastery in Canyon, Texas, calls for butter, sugar, heavy cream, corn syrup, pecan halves, and vanilla. But the first ingredient listed on the label is “prayer.” The Sisters do, in fact, pray while making the pralines -- sold as “Pray-Lines.” They use cooking time as “creative and contemplative time,” says Sister Magdalene Grobe. It’s part of the Rule of St. Benedict: Ora et labora -- prayer and work. *(Marialisa Calta, in Catholic Digest)***

 **Jehoshaphat gathered his people together and designated some to sing and praise the Lord. How shall we sing if we do not know the words? When you face a challenge, the situation is easier if you already have ideas of Truth planted in your subconscious or if you are, as some say, “prayed up.” It pays to be “pre-prayered” with ideas of God’s omnipresence, omniscience and omnipotence already in the subconscious mind ready to aid in difficult times. *(Greg W. Neteler, Unity Minister)***

**Perhaps the worst punishment God could visit upon us would be to answer all our prayers, to break through by miraculous intervention, heal all our diseases, solve all our problems and leave us children, undeveloped. *(J. Wallace Hamilton, in Still the Trumpet Sounds, p. 102)***

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**The purpose of prayer is to leave us alone with God. *(Leo Baeck, in Essence of Judaism)***

**The whole purpose of prayer is to experience God, to realize His presence right there in the place where the need appears to be. *(Roy E. Fox)***

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**Mother: “Sometimes God answers our prayers ‘Yes’ and sometimes it’s ‘No’.” Child: “What if it’s not a yes or no question?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**On the plains of West Texas we don’t get much rain. But when rain does come, it usually comes in torrents. One spring, after several days of downpour, I discussed the problem with a 96-year-old retired farmer. “Son,” he said, “I’ve farmed in these parts for eighty years, and I’d say, all told, that I spent seventy years of that time praying for rain, and ten years praying it would stop.” *(D. H. J., in Reader’s Digest)***

**A mother passing by her young son’s bedroom overheard a rather interesting prayer: “Dear God, make me a good boy, but it’s all right with me if you’d like to take your time about it.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**During a weekly church meeting, a friend of mine was scheduled to read a list of people who had asked to be included in the congregation’s prayers. Since another church member, Bonnie, had mentioned that she and her husband were struggling with a big decision on whether they should become missionaries, my friend offered to include them on the list. So at the meeting, my friend announced in front of the whole congregation, “Let’s all pray that Bonnie and Lee can make a decision about the missionary position.” *(Carrie Kocik, in Reader’s Digest)***

**My grandmother has prayed first thing in the morning ever since she was a girl. But recently she has been reading the newspaper first, so I asked if prayer had become less important to her. “Oh, no,” she said. “I’m just looking to see what I should pray about.” *(Bruce C. Johnson, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**After my daughter, Christy, learned that the Navy might reassign her husband, Mark, to Paris, France, she was thrilled. She began to pray fervently that they would be stationed in the glamorous City of Lights. When the assignment finally came, however, it was to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Christy was crushed, picturing herself living in a strict, traditionalist society, without the freedoms and conveniences she was accustomed to. A few days later, reading various brochures on Abu Dhabi, she was relived to find it was a beautiful, modern city. Her new home was in a country that had unique and fascinating features even France didn’t offer. Her spirits rose. Maybe this was God’s will for her, and He knew what she would enjoy even better than she did. Just then, she came to a footnote in one of the brochures: “Abu Dhabi is known as the Paris of the Middle East!” *(Robert G. Greenleaf, in Guideposts)***

**How often do I come to God not with consumer requests, but simply with a desire to spend time with him, to discern what he wants from me and not vice versa? When I did that in the elk meadow, I mysteriously found that the answer to my prayers for guidance was around me all along. Nothing changed but my receptors through prayer, I opened them to God. “For all things sing you," wrote the poet Rilke, “at times we just hear them more clearly.” *(Philip Yancey, in Christianity Today)***

**Recently a friend and I were discussing prayer. “It seems to me,” I said, “that the word ‘release’ is one of the most important components of answered prayer. When I pray and then release the prayer to the divine Power, results follow, often very quickly. When I think about it constantly, and pray about it often, results seem to be delayed." “Give me an example,” my friend suggested. “For instance,” I explained. “When you plant a row of carrot seeds, you follow directions, cover them up, relax, and in due time you have a row of carrots. If you keep digging them up to see if they have sprouted, guess what? You will be going to the store to buy carrots. Oh, you may be able to find a few twisted little carrots where you hoped to find lots of fine, firm, crispy carrots. But, alas, your impatience or lack of faith in Mother Nature resulted in this failure.” *(Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living newsletter)***

**A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained “I’m praying, but I can’t think of exactly the right words, so I’m just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me, because He knows what I’m thinking.” *(Charles B. Vaughan)***

**When I pray, I can lock the door of an office and pray by myself. That’s like riding in a cab. Or I can go to a church. I can pray in a temple or a cathedral, where thousands of people pass in and out every day. They are all praying, too. They are taking the same ride I am. And in mingling my prayers with them, I join the fellowship of the world, in humility before the mysteries that surround the journey. I think that is the way to take the ride. *(Niven Busch, novelist and screenwriter)***

**There is no one right way to pray. Nobody’s way of prayer is like anyone else’s. In short, if you are praying, you are already doing it right. *(Roberta Bondi)***

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**I always say a silent prayer before I rise to speak. “Dear Lord, fill my mouth with meaningful stuff, and nudge me when I've said enough.” *(Pat Buttram, actor)***

**Who rises from prayer a better person, his prayer is answered. *(George Meredith)***

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**To pray is no small thing. It is nothing less than a sacred pilgrimage into the heart of the whole world. *(Wayne Muller)***

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**Do you wish to pray in the temple? Pray in your own heart. But begin by being God’s temple, for He will listen to those who invoke Him in His temple. *(St. Augustine)***

**Do what you can do, and pray for what you cannot yet do. *(St. Augustine)***

**Pray like it all depends on God, but work like it all depends on you. *(St. Augustine)***

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**When your prayer is ended, gather together the essence of your devout meditations, as it were, in a little bouquet, and keep it before you throughout the day. *(St. Francis de Sales)***

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**From silly devotions and from sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us. *(St.* *Teresa of Avila)***

**More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones. *(St.* *Teresa of Avila)***

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**One time a saloonkeeper came to him for prayers for healing and was helped. The saloonkeeper then said, “I also need prayers for prosperity, but of course you could not pray for a man in my business to prosper.” Charles Fillmore replied: “Certainly. God will help you to prosper. ‘If ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name,’ does not exclude saloonkeepers.” He prayed for prosperity for the man, just as he would have prayed for anyone else, and learned afterward that the man had gotten out of the saloon business and had found prosperity in other lines of work. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 10)***

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**Don’t pray for God to send you honest people if you want to learn how to love. *(Walter Fiscus)***

**This morning I woke up to a cold, miserable day. So I prayed for the good Lord to send me strength to get up, get dressed and run ten miles. Then I rolled over and went back to sleep. He sent me wisdom instead. *(Trust Hall Insurance Services)***

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**William Shakespeare frequently used the word "orison" in his writings, including Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, and Henry VI. What is an orison? It's simply a prayer. *(Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)***

**The rabbi told him, “You have nothing to feel guilty about and nothing to apologize for. Your slamming the book down and storming out was probably the most sincere prayer anybody offered in synagogue all day long. The God I believe in is not so fragile that you hurt Him by being angry at Him, or so petty that He will hold it against you for being upset with Him. I believe He is just as upset about people being killed in the war as you and I are, and He respects good, clean, honest anger as much as you and I do, and a lot more than He respects mumbled prayers by people going through the motions.” *(Harold Kushner, in Who Needs God, p. 21)***

 **To me, saying prayers is sort of like flinging up skyhooks. If I get a few of them fastened in up there, then I’ll have something to swing on if someone jerks the world out from under me. *(James Alexander Thom, in Nuggets)***

**Dr. Alexander Whyte of Edinburgh was famous for his pulpit prayers. He always found something to thank God for, even in bad times. One stormy morning a member of his congregation thought to himself, “The preacher will have nothing to thank God on a wretched morning like this.” But Whyte began his prayer, “We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this." *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1456)***

**Spring is when a boy mantis sees a girl mantis and finally realizes what he's been praying for. *(Robert Orben)***

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When Spurgeon was asked to explain his phenomenal power as a preacher he replied: “My people pray for me." *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 132)***

**Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused. *(C. H. Spurgeon)***

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**Overheard some children inside our church admiring the stained-glass window depicting Christ at prayer: “It’s beautiful here,” one boy said, with greater wisdom than he realized, “but it ain’t no good if you are outside.” *(Burton Hillis, in Better Homes & Gardens)***

**Answer my prayers. Steal this car. *(Selma Glasser)***

 **My colleagues and I don’t pray that a particular stock we bought will go up because that just wouldn’t work. We simply pray that the decisions we make will be wise ones. *(John M. Templeton, mutual funds guru)***

**One of the most breathtaking sights in San Diego is sunset on the beach. As the sun sinks slowly into the horizon, hundreds of seagulls stand and turn quietly to bid farewell. Pelicans fly by in perfect formation, skimming just the top of the waves in their sunset salute. On the bridge across from the beach, thousands of birds line up on the electrical wires, all sitting and facing the sun, saying goodbye to the day. Perhaps they are also silently praying “Thank You, God, for knowing and caring when even one of us falls. Thank you, God, for declaring that even the sparrows shall be fed.” *(Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus CEO, p. 28)***

**Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. *(Phillips Brooks, in Unity magazine)***

 **It has always fascinated me that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to do one thing. “Lord, teach us how to pray.” *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons)***

**More things are wrought in prayer than this world dreams of. *(Tennyson)***

**The great tenor, Roland Hayes, always used to pause for a moment of quiet with eyes closed when he faced his audience for the first time in a concert. He was once asked by a reporter what he was doing. A humble man, Hayes was hesitant to reveal his secret. But eventually he admitted that he was praying. When asked what he prayed about, he replied, “I just get quiet and receptive and say, ‘O Lord, blot out Roland Hayes, that the people may hear only thee.’” That is the meekness that compels God. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover The Power Within You, p. 62))***

**Mother says to child: “Instead of always asking for things in your prayers, remember to say an occasional thank you prayer. For your family, for our good health, for this house, the fun we have, for your school, all your friends. . .” Child: “Thanks, God, for everything Mommy said.  Amen.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**I found seven possible things that may be happening when our prayers are not answered: We have core attitudes and / or beliefs that block our receiving the answer. We do not see the universe as friendly. How we live is incongruent with what we seek. We haven’t been persistent in our prayers. The answer has come, yet we do not see it for it is in an unexpected form. We are in a “dark night of the soul.” Our soul has made a decision that is unconscious to us. *(Janet B. Ellsworth, in Pathfinders Quarterly)***

**Everyone prays whether they realize it or not, for the truth is your every thought is a prayer. *(Roy E. Fox)***

**Why is it that when we talk to God we are said to be praying, and when God talks to us we are said to be schizophrenic?” *(Lily Tomlin)***

**In 1896, a tornado struck Adeline, Illinois, and destroyed the Methodist church in town. But with its 3-foot-thick stone walls, the United Brethren Church remained standing. After the storm, the pastor of United Brethren prayed that the next tornado to hit the town would take aim at the village saloon. But apparently, the Good Lord didn’t take too kindly to the tone of that prayer, because when another tornado hit 2 years later, it ripped the roof off United Brethren Church and smashed its bell tower -- and let the saloon untouched! For good measure, the tornado also destroyed the church parsonage and killed the minister’s horse. *(Olin Strole, in Country magazine)***

**Once there was a little girl whose brother made a trap that caught sparrows. She prayed every night that it might fail. One day her face became radiant and for three days she prayed hard. Her faith had become so absolute so suddenly that her mother asked one morning, “Mary, why are you so sure that your prayer will be answered?” Mary smiled, “I know that my prayer will be answered because I went out there three days ago and kicked the trap to pieces.” *(King Duncan and Angela Akers)***

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**In certain trying circumstances, urgent circumstances, desperate circumstances, profanity furnishes a relief denied even to prayer. *(Mark Twain)***

**I don't know of a single foreign product that enters this country untaxed except the answer to prayer. *(Mark Twain)***

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**When for a purpose I had prayed and prayed and prayed
 until my words seemed worn and bare with arduous use,
 and all my fervor and persistence brought no hope.
I paused to give my weary brain a rest and ceased my anxious cry
 in that still moment after self had tried and failed.
 There came a glorious vision of God’s Power and Lo.
 My prayer was answered in that hour. *(Lowell Fillmore)***

**I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: "O Lord, make my enemies ridiculous." And God granted it. *(Voltaire)***

**Visiting St. Patrick’s Cathedral on a tour of New York City, my daughter and her children were awed by the sight. The kids were especially curious about the votive candles, so my daughter asked if they’d each like to light one. She explained that it is customary to say a prayer of petition or thanks, and she was careful to tell them that these are not like birthday candles. “Do you have any questions?” she asked. “No,” said the five-year-old, “But if there’s a pony on the steps outside, it’s mine.” *(Ann Hasby, in Reader’s Digest)***

**People who knowingly select movies and television programs featuring foul language deserve exactly what they get. But it is not always possible to know in advance that a show is likely to overflow with filth. There are ratings for movies, but they provide inadequate protection for unsuspecting viewers. Vulgarity often erupts from television without any warning at all. Many people will wonder why governments that are clever enough to devise ways to shield children from the dangers of prayer in classrooms should not be clever enough to shield them from the evils of vulgarity in entertainment. *(Edward Grumsley, Creators Syndicate)***

**In prayer we are vulnerable, we stand naked and alone. All our thoughts of self-sufficiency have been laid to rest, and we no longer look to power for the protection of our soul. *(Adolfo Quezada)***

**I pray that you all put your shoes way under the bed at night so that you gotta get on your knees in the morning to find them. And while you're down there thank God for grace and mercy and understanding. *(Denzel Washington, Oscar-winning actor)***

**I don’t pray because I don’t want to bore God. *(Orson Wells)***

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**While attending to a patient in the E.R., a young priest came in. I had to leave the patient to prepare some medication, but the priest expressed fear of being left alone in the small cubicle with the patient. He became quite anxious and asked me what we at the hospital tell our patients when they are afraid. I answered, “We tell them to pray, Father!" *(Nurses: Jokes, Quotes, and Anecdotes - 2005 Calendar, submitted by Florentina Hanna-Joshi)***

**If, when you are praying, you hold the thought that it is really God who is working through you, your prayers will gain immeasurably in efficiency. Say, “God is inspiring me.” If, when you have any ordinary thing to do, you hold the thought, “Divine Intelligence is working through me now,” you will perform the most difficult tasks with astonishing success. *(Emmet Fox)***

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**When the gods wish to punish us, they answer our prayers. *(Oscar Wilde)*

The wish to pray is a prayer in itself. *(Georges Bernanos, in The Diary of a Country Priest)***

**Seven days without prayer makes one weak. *(The Bible Friend)***

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