

Prayer

Make It Personal

- Prayer is **foundational** in the Church.

If you need a breakthrough in your life, stop thinking about the **situation** and get a breakthrough about **prayer**.

1. Prayer is not a **duty**, prayer is a **privilege**.

Prayer is about God wanting to talk with us and it is a privilege to bring our thoughts, struggles, and desires to the **Creator** of the universe.

Here is a simple definition of prayer:

- Prayer is transferring **burdens**.
2. You at times in your life, carry **burdens** you were not **intended** to carry.
 3. God never intended for you to have a **burden** of a Christian family, but it is your responsibility to be a **Christian**.

The stress is we don't carry our burden to God in **prayer**.

Matthew 6:34

You need on a **daily** basis to have a **personal**, quiet time with God.

Explanation of a quiet time:

Be quiet! → Stop **talking** and **listen** to God.

I want to blow away some myths about prayer.

First myth:

- You can only pray from **5 am** to **6 am**.

Second myth:

- You must pray at least **one hour**.

Third myth about personal prayer:

- Your prayer journal must sound like the **Bible**.

When you write your notes, you don't have to write in **King James**.

Let me give you four steps to making your prayer life personal:

A. **Quiet** your **mind**

- * The battle is in our **minds**.

Psalm 131:2

4. When your soul is with the Lord (**personal** prayer), there is a calmness like a child when he is with his **mother**.

- The battle is our **minds** which is part of our **soul**.

Psalm 62:1 – David said this

Psalm 62:5

- David tells his soul – be **quiet**
 - * For a few minutes before I pray, I sit and tell my soul to be **quiet** and rebuke any **spiritual** influence.
 - Telling my soul to be with the **Holy Spirit**.

Second thing to get you personal with God:

B. **Focus** your mind

- This is where you **worship** the Lord.
 - Sing (no matter how **bad** it is)

1 Samuel 16:7b

7... For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

How you reach men is the **outward** appearance with **excellence**.

How you reach God is with the **heart**.

5. God not only **looks** at the heart, but God **listens** to the heart.

- * I'm not trying to change theology, but is it possible God doesn't hear our **voice** – He hears our **heart**.

Out of the abundance of the **heart**, the mouth speaks.

John 4:24

- * I promise you, God will give you a song for **each** day – Church **sing**

6. The song you sing will be the **key** to the Holy of Holies' secret place for you.

- The song focuses you on **God** and off of your **troubles**.

Psalms 100:4

We forget this: entering His presence, it's through **worship**.

Let me show you Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer.

Michael – oversaw **prayer**

Gabriel – brings the **Word** of the Lord

Lucifer – before the fall, oversaw **worship**

Is it possible: plan for our focus

Prayer

Worship

Word

That's why in our services, we do these three things.

* Most teachings on personal prayer is **pray** and **read** the Word.

We're missing **worship** which is a **foundation** of the Church.

Listen very closely:

When Lucifer was cast out of Heaven, and Jesus restored our relationship and fellowship with God, then gave us the authority, **worship** and its power was given to **us**. That's why Satan battles worship because it used to be **his**. Now it's the **Church's** responsibility.

You want to have an effective, personal prayer life:

A. **Clear** your **mind**

B. **Focus** your mind through **worship**

Third:

C. **Pray** your mind

7. Simply pray what's on your **mind** and as we said, on your **heart**.

Talk to God with what you're **burdened** about – prayer is **transferring** burdens.

- * You are not designed to **carry** burdens so if you come out of prayer still burdened, you didn't pray, you just **griped**.

8. Talk to God the way you would talk to your **best friend**.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving (that's **worship**), let your requests be made known to God;

If you do this, verse 7 says:

Philippians 4:7

⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

What's the key? Pray about **everything** and **transfer** your burdens.

Matthew 11:30

Only time Jesus uses this Greek word for **light**.

- It means, light in **weight**
- But specifically applied to burdens – it means **relieving** them.

1 Peter 5:7

D. **Renew** your mind

- To **renew** your mind is to read the **Word**.
9. A quiet time is reading what the **Holy Spirit** asks you to read.
10. Causing your thoughts to **align** with **God's** thoughts.

Romans 12:2

How are you going to be transformed?

Answer: By **renewing** your mind

Hebrews 4:12

When I read the Word of God, it **discerns** the thoughts and intents of my heart.

It **divides** my motives and God's motives

The way I become a man or woman of faith is to know the **Word**.

Church – get **personal** with God and **renew** yourself.