

# Inspirational Nuggets

(Archived posts from [www.discipleshipcenter.org](http://www.discipleshipcenter.org))

## **PRAYER:**

"Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of God's willingness." - *Phillips Brooks*

"A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God." - *Leonard Ravenhill*

"If you can't pray a door open, don't pry it." - *Lyell Rader*

"Pray, and let God worry." - *Martin Luther*

## **PRAYER: Hearing God's Voice:**

As a senior in college, I was an extremely busy person. Between a full class load, a part-time job, and being student supervisor for intramural sports, sometimes it felt like I had too much to do. On one particular Friday morning, the academic work became more than I could handle. I saw no way that I could get all my assignments completed within the short period of time that I was given. In the midst of feeling overwhelmed and a bit sorry for myself, I remembered that I could go to God in prayer, to ask for His help with the situation. I recall walking over to the baseball field, and then proceeding to tell God about all that I had to do, and how there was no way I could get it all done.

What was God's response? I wish I could say that He moved on the hearts of all my professors, and gave them all an overflowing amount of compassion and sympathy for me, so I could have more time to get my work done (or even withdraw some of my assignments altogether!). But He did not do that. Instead, *He spoke to my heart*. And, in that quiet but discernible voice of His, His compassionate words to me were: "*Get busy.*" I am not sure that this is what I wanted to hear, but I did follow His instruction, and somehow within the next 4 days all my assignments were completed.

There are so many occasions when you and I find ourselves in the midst of challenging situations, and we are not sure what to do next. Across the years, I have discovered that my most important ally during those times is a word from God. Yes, God does speak to His people in these days, and I am glad He does!

**Have you developed the ability to hear God's voice, so He can guide you through important situations you face each day?**

## **PRAYER: Hearing God's Voice:**

Here are some additional thoughts on hearing God's voice as a part of PRAYER:

1. *Jesus seems to indicate that, as one of His "sheep", I have the right and responsibility to hear His voice.* (John 10:27)
2. It is easier to hear my wife's voice if I am near to her, like when we are in the same room. *It is also easier to hear the Lord's voice if I have drawn near to Him, through things like prayer or worship.* The people of the early church had a much easier time hearing the Holy Spirit's voice because they had *drawn* near to Him through worshiping and fasting. (Acts 12:2-3)

3. *The Bible is instrumental in hearing God's voice:*

- He has often spoken to my heart based on a particular Bible verse I am reading - it is His platform for speaking to me.
- If the voice I am hearing tells me to do something contrary to God's instructions in the Bible, then it is not God who is speaking to me.

4. *Most often, God seems to speak in a quiet voice*, as Elijah discovered in I Kings 19:12. So, I need to really *listen closely to hear Him speak* to my mind and heart, or the world around me will drown out His voice.

5. To learn more about how to hear the voice of God, I recommend a book entitled *Hearing God's Voice* by Henry and Richard Blackaby.

**For guidance this year, it's His voice we must hear!**

**SHARING YOUR FAITH and PRAYER:**

Most of us already know the importance of sharing the Christian faith with others. Think back to how important it was for someone to share their faith with you, so that you could come to know Christ as your Savior. There are many people in your world who need to know Christ, too.

What you may not be aware of is just how important prayer can be to sharing the Christian faith. Consider these thoughts:

- *You can pray that the Holy Spirit will convict people of their sins, and draw people to Christ.*
- *You can pray that God will give you a love and concern for people who need Jesus.*
- *You can pray for wisdom as to how to share your faith with particular people in specific situations.*  
*When people who don't know Jesus experience troubled times in their lives, you can offer to pray for them.*
- *You can pray that God will send one of His people into the life of someone you know who needs Jesus.*
- *You can pray for patience as you work with people who need Jesus but are slow to respond to Him.*
- *When it seems that all your efforts to help someone come to know Christ are not working, you can always pray for that person!*
- *If a person you know is ready to ask Jesus into their heart, you can assist them in knowing what to pray.*
- *You can pray for new Christians, that they will stay faithful to their new Savior, and grow in their relationship with God.*

Prayer is one of your best allies as you share your faith and help others to come to know Jesus.

**Are you investing regular prayer into your faith-sharing efforts?**

**PRAYER:**

I am sure that you have probably heard the old expression: "Variety is the spice of life." I wonder if you are aware that variety is something you can add to your times of prayer with the Lord.

In the Bible, people prayed from many different *positions* - standing, kneeling, lying down, sitting, and walking are some of those prayer positions. Note, too, that people prayed in many *places* - mountains, boats, places of worship, and so on.

When I was in Seminary, one of my favorite things to do was to walk around our apartment complex as I was talking to the Lord in prayer. I actually looked forward to prayer more than ever, simply because i could walk and talk to God at the same time.

Perhaps there is a new prayer *position* or prayer *place* that you might want to try out. Would you be in favor of that, if it helped you look forward to prayer more than ever before? If interested, you might even ask the Lord to point out a possible new prayer place or prayer position. But, whether you want to look into a new position or place, or are feeling just fine about your current prayer setting, **do whatever it takes to be with the Lord each day for prayer.**

**PRAYER:**

Let's look at a few inspirational quotes about PRAYER –

*"God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it."* -- John Wesley

*"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."*  
-- Oswald Chambers

*"God always answers prayers. Sometimes it's 'Yes,' Sometimes the answer is 'No.' Sometimes it's 'You gotta be kidding.'"* -- Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S. President

*"Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders."* -- Sherin D. Austin

*"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."*  
-- Max Lucado

**Have you prayed yet today?**