

Making Time To Pray

Take the 15 Minutes of Prayer Challenge



‘Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.’

Colossians 4:12-13

Start with 15 minutes a day.

5 minutes of praise & personal prayer



- *Thank God for who He is
- *Thank God for all He has done
- *Ask for forgiveness for personal sin (confession)
- *Pray for yourself
- *For spiritual growth
- *For personal needs

5 minutes for others

- *Pray for family members
- *For spiritual growth
- *For personal needs
- *Pray for church family members
- *Pray for leaders (church, government, community)



5 minutes for your community



- *Pray for growth in the church
- *New believers
- *Revival
- *Pray for those who live to the north, south, east, and west of the church building
- *Pray for spiritual growth in the community
- *Ask God to use you to reach your community

Take the challenge,
make 15 minutes of prayer a part of your daily routine.



We invite you to consider making



your home Church.

Check us out on the internet at
www.mitchellnewhope.com

Our Sunday morning service
begins at 10:35.

We are at
1456 13th Avenue,
Mitchell, Nebraska
(behind the old Subway building).

Take the 15 Minutes of Prayer Challenge



15

Minutes of Prayer



What is Prayer

Prayer is communication between you and God. Just like with a friend, the more time you spend communicating with God the stronger your relationship with Him will become.

Good communication takes place in many different forms, but it should be honest and two-way.

With prayer **we talk to God. God talks to us** primarily through the Bible.

Why Pray?

Prayer should become an **important part of every Christian's life** for a number of reasons.

First, the Bible tells us to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Secondly, prayer was an important part of Jesus' life. He prayed regularly (Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35). He prayed before feeding 5,000 people with a fish and a loaf of bread (Matthew 14:19). Jesus prayed before Lazarus was raised from the dead (John 11:41-42).

Third, the leaders of the early Church prayed (Acts 1:14).

Throughout history strong Christians where prayer warriors, they spent lots of time in talking to God. The Bible says that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12). We are told to put on the full armor of God and a key **part of that armor is prayer** (Ephesians 6:18-19). To win the fit we need to stay in close contact with God through prayer.

Power of Prayer

The power of prayer can be seen throughout the Bible.

In The Old Testament

Moses prayed and the Red Sea parted (Exodus 14:21-31). **Solomon** prayed and the glory of the Lord filled the temple (2 Chronicles 7:1-2). **Elijah** prayed and fire came down from heaven (1 Kings 18:20-40). God answered David's prayer and forgave him for sins (mistakes) after his adultery with Bathsheba (Psalms 51), and the list of examples in the Old Testament goes on and on.

In The New Testament

The **Apostles** prayed and the building they were in was shaken (Acts 4:31-37). **Paul and Silas** prayed and they were freed (Acts 16:25-33. these are just some examples.

Prayer changes things outwardly and in our own lives, because it puts us in contact with God. As we spend time with God we find ourselves walking in victory even during the tough times. We have power to say no to sin and yes to the things of God.

How To Pray?

"So how do I pray and what should I pray for?"

In it's **simplest form prayer is you talking to God**. Just like you would share needs, problems, frustrations, and the good things with a friend you can do the same with God. He wants to hear from you. He is the prefect Father and wants you to **crawl up into His lap** and share with Him. He wants to hear from you, and in return, He wants to talk to you through the Bible. He loves you and is concerned with every aspect of your life.

God gives us **things we can pray for** in the Bible, things such as spiritual needs, physical needs, for ourselves and others. We are given a model of prayer in what is often called **The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)**.

The prayer begins with **praise**, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name (verse 9)."

It then follows with **spiritual needs**, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done . . . (verse 10)," in your life and others.

We see an example of this type of prayer in **Colossians 1:9-12** with Paul's prayer.

In Colossians Paul prayed for:

- 1) for spiritual wisdom (Colossians 1:9)
- 2) to live a life worthy of the Lord
- 3) to bear fruit
- 4 to grow in the knowledge of God
- 5) to be strengthened with all God's power

Going back to **Matthew 6:11** we then see a prayer for our **daily needs**.

Jesus then moves to **forgiveness**, "forgive us . . ." we are to confess our mistakes to God. In 1 John 1:9 we are told if we confess our sins God will forgive them.

We are also to pray that we will **avoid giving in to sin**, "and lead us not into temptation."

Elsewhere in the Bible we are told to pray **when we are in trouble** (James 5:13).

God tells us to **pray for others**, including those who are mean to us (Luke 6:28).

Nothing is impossible for God and even when we don't understand the reasons for things that happen we are to trust God (Philippians 4:6-8). **Prayer helps us to trust God**, because we are in communication with Him.



Prayer is something we need to make time for everyday.

