

Practice of Prayer

By Charles R. Swindoll

Not long ago, I found a nail in the left rear tire of my car. I was running late to an appointment, so I didn't get it fixed. Instead, I found a service station and filled that tire up more than I should have. And the longer I spoke at that engagement, I knew that tire was growing flatter by the minute.

That leaking tire was, in so many ways, like our need for prayer. Sometimes we operate on and on, day after day, without stopping for a refill of power and a word of direction. And slowly but surely, we become discouraged and downtrodden, don't we? So often we forget that prayer is the maintenance kit that brings power, life, and long-lasting hope to our journey.

How, Then, Shall We Pray?

I love the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus wanted to set the record straight on how people should pray. This group of people had watched their leaders---the Pharisees---put prayer on display, ad infinitum, ad nauseam. And He had the fortitude to publicly call these leaders what they were: hypocrites. (That man had guts!)

Instead of hypocrisy, Jesus offered His followers a safeguard guaranteed to keep their prayers genuine: "When you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:6)

Make the Father Your Main Focus. I read several years ago about a Puritan preacher who began his prayer with long and colorful language. His introduction carried on and on, until a lady in the choir reached over, pulled on his robe, and said to him, "Psst! Just call Him Father and ask Him for somethin'."

When you go to your earthly father, you call him Dad. And if he's a great dad, he drops everything to talk to you. Nothing thrills him more than knowing his child wants to talk to him, no matter what age. That's how it is with our heavenly Father. Just call Him Father and ask Him for something. He's right there, ready to answer those with willing hearts.

Make the Secret Place Your Platform. The best kind of prayer is done when no one is watching or listening. It begins in the closet, not at the church. It bares its soul without a hidden agenda. It genuinely seeks to know what God desires.

I can tell you from experience that one of the most challenging parts of pastoring a church is leading in pastoral prayer. To connect with the Almighty as if you are all alone, knowing you're surrounded by those who are quiet and listening, is a real challenge. It's easy to parade our righteousness in moments like that. But our prayers need to be offered spontaneously and authentically.

Prayer means coming to your Father in secret and your Father in secret listening to you. And He will repay you accordingly--according to His will, according to what is best.

So the next time you're out on the road and your tire starts to wear a little thin, remember that it's not the quick can of fix-a-flat that's going to restore your perspective. It's your sincere prayer to the Father, offered out of the wellspring of your heart, that will help you keep on keeping on.

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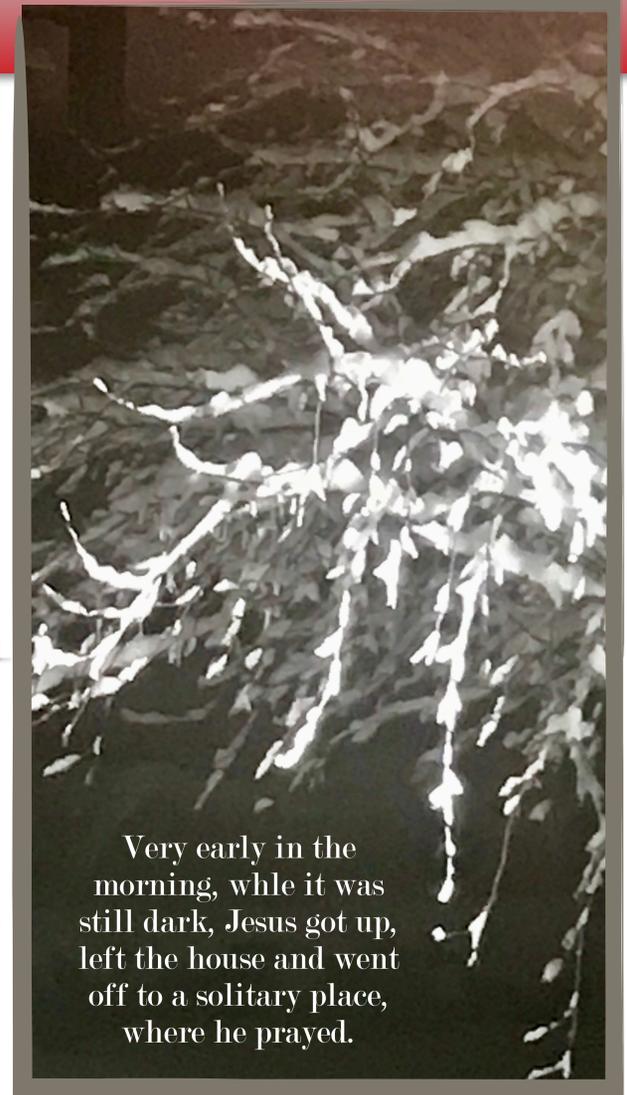
Prayer Pathways

- Write prayer requests on the back of the Connect Card or FCCABQ app
- prayers@fccabq.org
- Prayer Team/Pastors are ready following each service
- 505-229-PRAY (7729)

Elder's Prayer

January 27th at 6:00 PM

Come for your private time of sharing and prayer. Arrive at 6 pm and one of our Elder's/ Staff will greet you and invite you to a private area for prayer, counsel and encouragement with our elders.



Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

**PRAYER JOURNAL
January 2019**

Family Matters

Aaron Robison: Zella Berry

Angels Acts of Kindness: Funds and volunteers to serve God's people

Bobby Brunsmann: Shirlee Barnard's son: Prayers for Shirlee & son as she travels to California for him

Building: Repair of damages to our FCC building

Caffery Family: Tom's mother passed away unexpectedly on 12/28. Travels for family as they gather.

Caller: Prayers for strength & discernment

Christopher Davies: For deep devotion to study Greek & Hebrew to further God's Word

Donna Vigil: God is good. Fighting spiritual warfare, please pray

Dot Stansbury: Continued prayers

Elizabeth Pena: Prayers for family, work & spiritual life

Family Promise Hosting later this month

Isaiah Garcia: From Trish Garcia

Jesse & son Gauge: Steve & Carol Nelson. Prayers for this employee

Lenise Torres' Son & Family: Health & financial concerns

Lucrecia Barreras: Please pray for family, for health & wellness

Marie Grace: Prayers for family, protection & peace

Michelle Perry: Shirlee Barnard's daughter; continued sobriety

Nation: Prayers for our Nation, its leadership, the church in America and worldwide. For all who serve our Country and their families

Pastor Search Team

Philippines Missions: Land for cemetery

Pray Every Day Prayer Initiative

Robert & Val Gregory: Still looking for a place to stay closer to the church

Robinson Family: Continued prayers; struggling to come to church

Sam Kooistra: Friend of Jim & Cheryl Swart; PRAISE GOD!! speaking more after intense therapy, now doing therapy at home

Steve Nelson: Feeling run down, business has been very busy. Prayers for energy and strength

Steve & Carol Nelson: Blessings as sales are up, need prayers for employee concerns

U.S.A Soldiers/Military

Victoria Anaya: Gary Stansbury's daughter for strength and life direction

Youth Pastor: Search for new pastor & faith for youth

Zac: Eva Shaver's grandson; continued prayers please

Zach Cruz: Trish Garcia's nephew, recent graduate in need of discernment and wisdom

Pregnancies

Job Needs

Barbara Harger: Currently subbing, needs full time employment

Niece & nephew of the Hoovers

Lawrence Garcia: New job search

Robert Gregory

Ron: Jayne Gregory's son-in-law; employment issues

Tim Grieve: For employment during the day, preferably with same company

Add your own requests and those from those added each week in the Worship Folder

Health

Babs Tawney: Elizabeth Gross' mother. Health

Barb Mowry: Recovering from dental work

Barbara Brown: Continued prayers

Barbara Robertson: Jayne Gregory. Continued prayers, very slow recovery

Friend of Buddy & Sue Whitlock: Serious circulatory problems, lost his leg to his illness and is struggling to adjust

Carol Driscoll health

Carol Nelson: Still having knee problems, set up doctor appointment for Feb 2019

Connie O'Dell: Health

David Eubank: Friend of Jayne Gregory; recovering at home from heart valve surgery

Debbie Morgan: Jayne Gregory. Friend with Diabetes-kidney failure, removed from transplant list

Don & Betty Davis: Neighbors of Lloyd & Betty Hoover.

Greg Gross' mother; health

Helen Cox: Multiple systems atrophy, type P

Jaime: In need of blood transfusion, health

Jeffery Ring: Continued prayers for health

Jim Phillips: Friend of Nancy Noonan; recovering from heart valve replacement

Joan Beddo: Health

Leah Robison: for health

Katie & Jeff: Health

Kevin: Carole Renouard's friend's son; in need of employment & suffering with depression

Madi Headley: Tom Headley's Granddaughter; home in Portales; diagnosed with POTS, discerning treatment

Marion & Dee Mayall: Health

Martha Sweeny: Marty Sweeny's Mom, Health

May Livesay: health, improving slowly

Mike: Carol Nelson's step dad; prayers after severe car crash. Pray for recovery, doctors treating him & Mike's salvation

Nancy Cox: Tom Burns' Sister; health

Naomi: Bud & Mary Cavin's sister in law; diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease

Pat Harrelson: Beverly Harrelson's husband; continued recovery from surgery

Rob Noble: Continued healing

Russ Fogleman: Marcy Hackett's father; for salvation, recent stroke & Parkinson's

Mr. Sandoval: Trish Garcia's brother in law's grandfather. Poor health

Shelley: Carol Nelson's sister-in-law; continued recovery of knee

Steve & Carol Nelson: Steve's Dad, Ray, is on a new medicine to combat depression. Also prayers for Steve's Mom. They are not believers

Yvonne Burk: health

Cancer

Brenda Wilson: Pat Fleming's co-worker. Breast and lung

Colleen Lewis: Pat Fleming's mother. Lung treatment is working

Daniel Scully: Ruby Loftus Scully—prostate cancer has metastasized to bone, treatment decisions

Donna: The Cavin's daughter. new cancer medication

Elsie Ward: Melanoma

Ginny: Trish Moore's aunt; diagnosed with lung cancer. Prayers for successful surgery and treatment

Janice Swindell: Carole Renouard's cousin. Continuing with chemo treatments

Jeff Bechtold: Friend of Lawrence & Trish Garcia; throat cancer will begin radiation in TX

Jean & Kathy: friends of Cathy Eagle; both recent breast cancer diagnosis. Prayers from wisdom & peace

Jessie Stephens: Beverly Harrelson's niece. PRAISE!! Her tumors have shrunk, she is going back to work

Friend of Joe Wayton: Radiation treatments

Joel Medlin: Carole Renouard's cousin's husband; diagnosed with cancer & receiving radiation through February

Mr & Mrs John Dillon: Brain tumor

Joyce: Seth Biddulph's grandmother, not responding to cancer treatment, more tumors have developed

Judi Pinson: Co-worker of Todd Zeter. Ovarian

Karen: Martha Joe Hall's sister. Thyroid

Grandson of a co-worker of Katie Gross: liver

Kaylee Hamilton: Daughter-in-law of Jack & Joann Hamilton; PRAISE!! Pathology showed NO cancer. Oncologist to determine course of treatment

Larry Pegg: Carol Renouard's cousin, cancer has returned

Lesla Arterburn: Rachel Dostal's mom. Breast stage 3. In remission, maintenance chemo for a year

Lori Lee: Stage 4 lung and brain

Father of Trish Garcia's brother in law (Mark): Diagnosed with lung cancer & will start radiation

Mellie Lang: From Jayne Gregory. Breast cancer

Mike Mayhew: Jayne Gregory request, is suffering from lung cancer

Mother of Christopher Davies: Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, for healing

Patsy Taveras: Friend of Jayne Gregory; PRAISE! Doing well after having breast cancer surgery

Patrick Coombs: Liver cancer

Patty Burdett: Marcella Smith's niece. Follicular lymphoma. Chemo finished. Pet Scan in March to be sure all is gone

Richie: Friend of Gwen Bilby. Chemo for lung

Ron Baca: Lorenzo Baca's father

Ron Rupert: Jayne Gregory's son-in-law, PRAISE!! completed radiation, test results were good
