

## The Ancient Paths: Prayer

Deuteronomy 4:7 ❖ John 15:7

“Five times a day, devout Muslim men kneel on rugs and bow with their faces turned toward Mecca. Why do these followers of Allah possess such a commitment to regular prayer, while we Christians, who instead know the true God of the Bible, often treat prayer in a cavalier or discretionary way?”

(“Wisdom from the Ancients,” Bryan Litfin, pp. 81)

### “Take It to the Lord in Prayer”

Joseph Scriven was born in 1819 in Dublin, Ireland and had more than his share of \_\_\_\_\_. On the night before his wedding, his fiancée \_\_\_\_\_. He immigrated to Ontario, Canada, where he became a \_\_\_\_\_. He fell in love again, but his new fiancée \_\_\_\_\_, as well.

In a letter to his \_\_\_\_\_, who was ill back in Ireland, he wrote a \_\_\_\_\_ encouraging her to \_\_\_\_\_. It was published by a friend in 1855.

“What a \_\_\_\_\_ we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in \_\_\_\_\_!  
O what \_\_\_\_\_ we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry everything to God in \_\_\_\_\_!”

### Comms

\_\_\_\_\_ is essential in any relationship and in every organization.

Last month after straight-line winds whipped through our part of the county, none of the ways we \_\_\_\_\_ were available.

Communication with \_\_\_\_\_ is always available through \_\_\_\_\_.

### Prayer 101

“Of all the spiritual disciplines, prayer is the most \_\_\_\_\_ because it ushers us into perpetual \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father.”  
(“Celebration of Discipline,” Richard Foster, p. 33)

It truly is “a \_\_\_\_\_ to carry everything to God in \_\_\_\_\_!”

Moses asked a rhetorical question: “What other \_\_\_\_\_ is so great as to have their gods \_\_\_\_\_ them the way the LORD our God is \_\_\_\_\_ us whenever we \_\_\_\_\_ to Him?” (Deuteronomy 4:7)

John Calvin wrote: “God doesn’t act the same if we don’t \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Some Misconceptions About Prayer

- 1) It’s not possible to \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- 2) Your “sweet hour of prayer” has to be a solid \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) If I \_\_\_ this or don’t \_\_\_ that, then God will answer my prayers.

### A Prayer Check-Up

*Do you set aside time every day to pray?*

*When you pray out loud, do you resist the temptation to orate?*

*Do you thank God when He answers your prayers?*

*When another person is praying, are you courteous and reverent?*

*Do you utilize prayer as a means of resisting temptation?*

### Takeaway

When we stay \_\_\_\_\_ to God, we know \_\_\_\_\_ to pray.

The only way to learn to pray is by \_\_\_\_\_.

Let’s pray the \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer ...

The thumb -

The pointer finger -

The middle finger -

The ring finger -

The pinky finger -

