

The
PRAYING
WOMAN'S
— *Devotional* —



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OMARTIAN



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INTRODUCTION



I love reading the Word of God. I especially love it when the Scriptures I am reading inspire me to pray. And they always do. In this book I want to share with you certain verses I have chosen throughout the Bible, and how they have impressed my heart and mind and led me to pray specifically. I hope that as you read each one of these short Bible studies and devotional prayers, they will encourage you to see every verse of God's Word as a source of inspiration to draw you into a closer walk with the Lord through ongoing prayer.

I pray that each Scripture presented here will lead you to read it in your own Bible so you can reach further into the rest of that passage or chapter. There is much to be gleaned from reading Scripture in the context of its surrounding material when you have the time or inclination to do so.

In this book you will find examples of how to pray for your life and the lives of those around you, as well as for your world and the things you care about most. You will learn what God asks us to do with regard to prayer and how we should respond to His direction. You will be reminded of the ways God wants you to pray and why.

May each devotional and prayer encourage you to go deeper into God's Word to find the treasures God has for you there, and to pray in ways you might not otherwise have thought to pray. It is my prayer that each time you read in this book, it will bring inspiration for your day and hope for your future.

Stormie Omartian

GOD ALWAYS HEARS YOU WHEN YOU PRAY

☯ Read and Consider ☯
John 11:1-44

“Jesus looked up and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me’” (John 11:41-42).

Jesus showed up for a close friend’s funeral—after he had already been buried. He deliberately missed it all. When Lazarus became sick, his sisters sent word to Jesus. But Jesus stayed where He was for two more days, saying to His disciples, “This sickness will not end in death” (11:4), and then, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up” (11:11). They didn’t understand what He meant, so He finally told them, “Lazarus is dead” (11:14).

By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Mary and Martha found it hard not to express their disappointment with Him. They knew He could have healed their brother, but now they would have to wait until the resurrection to see him again. In response Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies” (11:25).

When He arrived at the burial site, Jesus asked that the tomb be opened. When the stone was rolled away, Jesus prayed, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.” But this sounded like the *end* of a prayer, not the beginning. Obviously, Jesus had been praying all along. He had been talking to His Father for days as He always did, but with full knowledge of this upcoming event.

It surely was difficult for Jesus to *not* be with His friends during this tragic time. But He talked with God and waited for the right

moment so that God would be glorified in all that happened. He thanked His Father out loud for the benefit of all who were listening, and then He called Lazarus out of the tomb, grave clothes and all.

Jesus knew that His Father always heard Him. He knew days before that Lazarus would be resurrected. What a wonderful thing it is to be so certain that God always hears us when we pray. To trust completely that we are God's very own children and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).

God wants us to believe that He always listens to our prayers and will answer. He wants us to have an ongoing conversation with Him that keeps us in tune with His will and His purpose. He wants us to remember that Jesus brings life no matter how dead and helpless things seem. We just need to keep praying and believe in His ability and desire to answer.



*Father God, I thank You that I am Your child
and a joint heir with Christ. Because of that, I can
trust that You always hear my prayers. Help me to
maintain ongoing communication with You, just
as Jesus did, so that I may have a deep and abiding
walk with You and You will be glorified by my life.
In Jesus' name I pray.*

JESUS' PRAYER *for* YOU

 Read and Consider 
John 17:20-26

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you” (John 17:20-21).

Did you know that Jesus prayed for you and me? In this passage Jesus was interceding for His followers, but He was also speaking ultimately to every believer down through the ages.

We who have come to faith in Jesus can listen back in time to this moment when the Lord prayed for *us*. We were on His mind as He prepared to lay down His life in order to provide forgiveness for our sins, abundant life now, and life with Him for eternity.

Jesus prayed for us to have unity with other believers—across the nations, across cultures, across time, across the street, across the room, across the sanctuary. He also prayed for us to have unity with Him and the Father and the Holy Spirit so that our lives would convince others of who He is. He declared His love for us and promised to share His glory with us. He prayed for our salvation so that we could be with Him forever, and He promised to continue to make Himself known to us so we could experience more and more of His love.

Jesus was thinking of you centuries ago when He was praying. He lives today and every day to “intercede” for you (Hebrews 7:25). His desire is that you become one with Him and one with other believers, so that those who see you will believe in Him. Pray that you will always be one with Him and one with others. Thank Jesus that even way back then, He was already praying for you.



Father God, thank You that just as You and Your Son are one, You want me to be in that kind of unity with other believers. So I pray that no matter what church, race, culture, denomination, city, state, or country Your children are from, You will enable me to experience that same oneness with them that Jesus prayed centuries ago for us to have.

In Jesus' name I pray.

PRAYER GROWS LOVE *in* YOUR HEART

 Read and Consider 
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

“And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:14).

It is a powerful thing when we pray for one another. Every time we pray for someone, we feel more connected to them. It is exactly as Paul said—your heart goes out to the person you are praying for. That’s because God gives us His heart for them.

That’s why praying for our enemies is a good thing. It not only softens our heart, but it opens a door for them to hear God and for their heart to be changed. When there are people we are angry with and don’t feel like praying for at all, if we will make ourselves pray for them, even though we don’t feel they deserve it, walls will come down and forgiveness will happen.

Intercessory prayer is powerful on many levels. It not only influences situations and people, it changes *us* in the very process. Is there a difficult person for whom you need to pray? Has someone hurt you? Ask God to help you pray for them. When you do, He will work love in your heart for them, which will ultimately be to your greatest blessing. Only God can cause love to grow in your heart where there is none. Only God can bring to life love that has died. It happens as we pray for that person.



Lord, there are certain people I want to pray for, but it's very hard for me to do so. Yet I know You will give me Your heart of love for them when I do. Help me to pray especially for the people who have hurt me. Thank You that praying for others will not only affect their lives, but it will change my heart and life as well.

In Jesus' name I pray.

GOD'S CONNECTION *with* US

 Read and Consider 
Genesis 1:26–2:7

“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7).

God created the universe with a word. He spoke stars and planets into existence. He formed the world with simple commands. God started the creation process without any preexisting things. He began with nothing. With the presence of the Holy Spirit and the entrance of His Word, creation happened. He brought order, light, life, and beauty out of chaos and darkness. He said, “Let there be...” and it happened.

Then He became personally involved with making humans. Other places in Scripture describe God as a “potter” and human beings as the “clay” (Isaiah 64:8), making us think of our heavenly Father bent over a potter’s wheel, forming mud figures into the design He had in mind for us. The finishing touch was to breathe into us His breath of life. God got personal, right from the start.

But He didn’t stop there. God’s action in giving us breath also gave us the ability to speak. The act of breathing that keeps us alive is the same act that we use to communicate. We breathe out to speak (and some languages in the world even breathe in to speak). We are God’s image bearers (1:26-27). We breathe and speak because of His breath given to us.

We should be in awe of the privilege we have to use the breath of life to speak to our Creator. We were made to communicate with our Maker. Even though we may not start out doing it very well, He still wants to hear us speak to Him. Just as we are delighted when

our babies make their first tiny sounds, so our heavenly Father is delighted when He hears the sound of one of His children speaking words intended for His ears.

So breathe a prayer to God often. If words don't come to mind right away, start by saying, "Thank You." As you say those two words slowly, begin to add "for..." until different ways to end the sentence begin to flow. Once you do this a while, you will realize that you can use your inspiration (breathing in) as time to think of the next words and your expiration (breathing out) to express your gratitude. All the way back to the first breath of the first person, you and I were made for this. Giving us the "breath of life" is God's connection with us, and prayer is our connection with Him.



*Lord, I thank You for the breath of life You have given me. I pray You will breathe new life into me today. Just as You spoke and brought about life in Your magnificent world, help me to speak words that bring life into my own small world as well. How grateful I am to be closely connected to You in every way.
In Jesus' name I pray.*