

Think about,
pray about,
discuss
these affirmations
about prayer.

**WHO ONE BELIEVES God to be is most accurately revealed
... in the way one speaks to God when no one else is listening.**

NANCY MAIRS, *Ordinary Time*

**PRAYER IS NOT ASKING. Prayer is putting oneself in
the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his
voice in the depths of our hearts.**

MOTHER TERESA

THERE'S MORE GOSSIP passed around
under the guise of prayer request than
anything I know.

JAMES T. "JIMMY" DRAPER, quoted by
Baptist Press

PRAYER, AS ST. THERESA tells us,
consists not in speaking a lot, but in
loving a lot.

CHARLES DE FOUCAULD, *Silent Pilgrimage
to God*

WE PRAY BEST when we are no longer
aware of praying.

CASSIAN, quoted in *John Howard Griffin,
The Hermitage Journals*

AS THE FLOOR is swept everyday, so is
the soul cleansed everyday by confession.

HUGH CONNOLLY, *The Irish Penitentials*

THOSE PEOPLE WHO PRAY
know what most around them
either don't know or choose to
ignore: centering life in the
insatiable demands of the ego is
the sure path to doom. . . . They
know that life confined to the
self is a prison, a joy-killing,
neurosis-producing, disease-
fomenting prison.

EUGENE PETERSON, *Earth and
Altar: The Community of Prayer
in a Self-Bound Society*

I AM REMINDED that one old
saint was asked, "Which is the
more important: reading God's
Word or praying?" To which he
replied, "Which is more impor-
tant to a bird: the right wing or
the left?"

A.W. TOZER, *Jesus, Our Man
in Glory*

RABBI SHLOMO CARLEBACH: "Full
experiences of God can never be planned
or achieved. They are spontaneous
moments of grace, almost accidental."

Bo Lozoff: "Rabbi, if God-realization is
just accidental, why do we work so hard
doing all these spiritual practices?"

Rabbi Carlebach: "To be as accident-
prone as possible."

BO LOZOFF, *It's a Meaningful Life—
It Just Takes Practice*

WE MUST DISTINGUISH prayer from
prayers. Saying prayers is one activity
among others. But prayer is an attitude
of the heart that can transform every
activity. We cannot say prayers at all
times, but we ought to "pray without
ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). That means we
ought to keep our heart open for the
meaning of life. Gratefulness does this,
moment by moment. Gratefulness is,
therefore, prayerfulness.

DAVID STENDL-RAST, *Gratefulness,
The Heart of Prayer*

PRAYER IS NOT a convenient device
for imposing our will upon God, or for
bending his will to ours, but the pre-
scribed way of subordinating our will to
his. It is by prayer that we seek God's
will, embrace it and align ourselves with
it. Every true prayer is a variation on
the theme, "Your will be done." Our
Master taught us to say this in the pat-
tern prayer he gave us, and added the
supreme example of it in Gethsemane.

JOHN STOTT, *The Letters of John*

Compiled by Richard A. Kauffman