

Quotes on Prayer

by Charles Spurgeon (1834-92)



If by any means a man of God becomes disqualified for any form of desirable service which was upon his heart, yet nothing can disqualify him from prayer.¹

Remember, a prayerless soul is a Christless soul, and a Christless soul is a lost soul, and will soon be cast away for ever.²

A man who does not pray is in the dark; he knows not his own wants, else would he make supplication. If he understood his own danger, the temptations which surround him, and the corruptions which are within him, he would be incessantly in prayer. He who has left off praying has surely lost his wits. If the Holy Ghost has taught us anything he has taught us this, that we must pray without ceasing.³

Beloved, this finding in the heart to pray proves that the heart is in communion with God; for what is prayer but the breath of God in man returning whence it came. Prayer is a telephone by which God speaks in man. His heaven is far away, but his voice sounds in our soul.⁴

Shall he be large in promising and shall we be narrow in asking? Shall he stand before us and say, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive," and will we be content with slender, starved petitions? Beggars seldom need pressing to beg, and when a promise is given them they usually put the widest possible construction upon it, and urge it with great vehemence; will it not be well to take a leaf out of their book? Come, brethren, the argument is strong with those who have spiritual sense- the greatness of the promise encourages us to find many a prayer in our heart.⁵

C. H. Spurgeon was to nineteenth-century England what D. L. Moody was to America. Although Spurgeon never attended theological school, by the age of twenty-one he was the most popular preacher in London.

He preached to crowds of ten thousand at Exeter Hall and the Surrey Music Hall. Then when the Metropolitan Tabernacle was built, thousands gathered every Sunday for over forty years to hear his lively sermons.

In addition to his regular pastoral duties, he founded Sunday schools, churches, an orphanage, and the Pastor's College. He edited a monthly church magazine and promoted literature distribution. (from website www.spurgeon.org)

¹Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

²Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

³Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

⁴Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

⁵Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

We dishonor him by the fewness of our petitions, and the littleness of our desires. My soul, enlarge thy desires; be hungry, be thirsty, be greedy after divine grace, for whatever thou desirest thou shalt have, provided it be indeed for thy good.⁶

Prayer, like our Lord, comes forth from God and returns to God. That is the pedigree and history of all true supplication. It is like the mist which you see in the early morning, rising from the plains towards heaven in the form of clouds, like incense from an altar. How came it there? First of all, the moisture was in the heavens, in the secret treasuries of God. Then came a day when it fell in drops of rain, and did not return void, but watered the earth. Afterwards, when the blessed sun shone forth, it steamed up again, to return to the place from whence it came. The clouds are like the divine decree—who shall enter into the secret place where Jehovah hideth his purposes? The rain is like the word, with its sparkling drops of precious promises, the outcome of the mysterious purposes of God. These revealed blessings we see standing in pools in the Scriptures. Turn to the Book or listen to the Lord's servants whom he helps to speak, and you shall hear a sound of abundance of rain. This rain watereth the soul of man, and when the warm love of God comes shining on the saturated heart it uprises in earnest petitions. Prayer is never lost, for though the mist which rises in yonder valley may never fall again into the same place, it drops somewhere; and so true prayer, though it come not back into the offerer's own bosom, is fruitful in good in some way or other. The result of honest hearty prayer may not be distinctly this or that according to your mind or mine, but it is always good; supplication is never wasted, it is preserved in the divine reservoir, and in the time its influence visits the earth and waters it with "the river of God, which is full of water."⁷

Look at Luther; they say it was wonderful to hear him preach, but a hundred times more so to hear him pray.⁸

Christians, Their Communion with God

I must not leave this point till I have said one other thing about this principle of communion with God, this is the hunger and this is the thirst of the Christian. "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God." To get near to God is the great passion of our spirit. To accomplish this to the full, we would beard grim death in his den. Ay, sometimes, we could almost use the extravagant language of Rutherford, when he declared that, if God were on the other side, to get at him he would swim through seven hells, for nothing can keep back the impetuosity of a heart that is all aflame with love to God, and feels that all its heaven lies in communion with him.⁹

⁶Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

⁷Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

⁸Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 24*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 24)

⁹Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 41*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 41)

We have come to our Red Sea, and we can go no farther, and now our love to God, our fellowship with him, makes us just abide where we are until he says, "Go forward," and then we march through the sea dry-shod. Waiting is often a very heavenly experience.¹⁰

You can tell a good dog when you see him follow his master. Though somebody who wants to steal him offers him a dainty bit, he will have nothing to do with him, but he will keep close to his master's heel; and the true believer follows God when he seems to get nothing by it, and when he appears to be a loser by it. He loves not God with a cupboard love, for what he gets from him in this world; but with a child's love, which says, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."¹¹

There is a great difference between the largest words of men and the very smallest words of God, if such there be. I have heard of a certain divine, who preached a sermon, and afterwards asked an aged man what he thought of it; this was a very foolish thing for him to do. The old man answered, "Well, I have not much to say." "But," enquired the minister, "did you not think that there were capital divisions and wonderful distinctions in the sermon?" He said, "Yes; but there was one distinction you seemed to me to forget in your sermon." "What was that?" "The distinction between meat and bone; you gave us a large quantity of bone, but I did not perceive that I had any meat, and there is a wonderful distinction there." When a man once gets to feed upon the Word of God, all the rest is bones, and he lets the dogs have them; but as for himself, he wants spiritual meat, and he must have that.¹²

¹⁰Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 41*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 41)

¹¹Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 41*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 41)

¹²Spurgeon, Charles H.: *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 41*. electronic ed. Albany, OR : Ages Software, 1998 (Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons 41)