

25 Be prayerful

Conversations with God

Think about the relationship these people had with God

- Adam Genesis 3:8-10
- Abraham Genesis 18:22-34
- Moses Deuteronomy 34:10
- David 2 Samuel 7:18-20
- Jesus Luke 6:12-13
- Paul Philippians 1:3-4, 1 Corinthians 1:4

Now think about these people and fill in as much as you can about how they prayed. Before you look up the references, ask yourself who will be praying and how?

Reference	Who is praying?	Practicalities (position, frequency...)	Summarise the elements in the prayer (praise, requests, thanks...), or the content. Highlight the elements you find hard or never do.
1 Samuel 1:9-13			
Nehemiah 1:4-11			
Nehemiah 2:3-5			
Daniel 6:10			
Matthew 6:5-14			
Luke 1:46-55			

4000 BC

3000 BC

2000 BC

The Good news

Call me
and I will answer you
and tell you great and
unsearchable things
Jeremiah 33:3

Many Psalms are prayers

Find a Psalm of praise

one that makes requests,
a Psalm of thanksgiving.

Jot down

some practical things
that might help you to
become more prayerful.
Highlight one or two that
you are going to try this
week

Four more reminders

that God wants us to talk
to him.

Psalm 50:14-16

Isaiah 58:9-11

Isaiah 55:1-3

Luke 11:9-13

What was God's answer?

1 Samuel 1:11

1 Samuel 1:17-20

Genesis 25:20-21

v24-26 (notice his age)

2 Samuel 12:15-16

v18-23

So what does this mean?

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:26-28

Try this

So don't worry if you don't know what to pray for or what words to use, because God knows what is in our heart better than words can express.

And God who searches our hearts knows what is on our minds because our deepest desires speak to him and if they are in accordance with his will, he will act.

Because of that we know that if we love God, and if we have answered his call, everything will work together for the best.

And what does this mean?

Pray continually

(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Or this

Give thanks in all circumstances.

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Even when terrible things happen?

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