



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE WORD

## Prayer Strategy

☞ Relying on God ☞

### 1. Introduction

- A. Prayer is our voice to God as opposed to God's voice to us.
- B. The nature of God and the privilege of approaching the God of the universe in prayer:
  - 1. The awe of God humbles us before Him.

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*We have access to the throne room of God 7 days per week,  
24 hours per day, without an appointment.*

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- C. There is no line for access to the throne room of God - we have priority as His children.
- D. We do not have to go through anybody but Jesus Christ to get to God.
  - 1. We honor the fathers in the faith, but we do not have to go through any religious figure, minister, or priest to get to God.
- E. To approach God, we do not have to be afraid or concerned about His mood because God is not mean.
  - 1. I can walk right up and lay my head in His lap.
- F. Remember the price that Jesus paid for this access.
  - 1. Man disobeyed, sinned, and became a slave to another master.
  - 2. Sin blocked us from God's presence, hanging like a thick curtain.



3. God did not leave man to his fate because He had a plan before the foundation of the world.
  4. Before sin, God could walk and talk with man, and after man sinned, God still wanted to dwell among men.
- G. Moses was asked to build a Tabernacle where God could dwell behind a veil in the Holy of Holies.
1. Only the High Priest, measuring up to the standard of the law, could enter the Holy of Holies, once per year.
  2. The priest entered with a rope tied to his ankle so he could be pulled out in case he dropped dead.
- H. When Jesus (God with skin on) stretched Himself out on the cross and cried “it is finished,” the first thing that happened was that the veil tore from top to bottom.
- I. God cried out from His throne room, “*now whosoever will, can come!*” (Revelation 22:17).



“Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- Hebrews 4:16

- J. When we boldly enter the throne room, we are entering the presence of the One who knows the answer to every question - He *is* the answer to every question.
1. God does not always give a verbal answer, but His presence is enough to help us through.
  2. “When answers aren’t enough, there’s Jesus.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Brown, Scott Wesley. “When Answers Aren’t Enough.” *The Scott Wesley Brown Collection: A Library of 35 Favorite Songs*. Sparrow Records, 1995.



3. When “why” does not have an answer, and even if God gave us an answer it would not satisfy, we have access to the One who created the whole universe and calls each star by name (Psalm 147:4).
    - a. There are over 100 billion stars in just our galaxy and there are over 100 billion galaxies.
  4. When facing problems, go outside and look up into the stars in the night sky like David.
- K. No problem is beyond God’s ability. Talk to Him boldly. Ask Him questions. Ask God for His counsel, and He will answer.

*“O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!”<sup>2</sup>*

## **2. The Most Important Ministry**

- A. There will be no area in your life that the enemy fights harder than your prayer life.
- B. You must battle for your prayer life harder than you battle lust or any other vice.
- C. Throughout your life, the enemy will fight your prayer life with distraction, fatigue, busyness, people, etc.
- D. Satan’s greatest fear is that you realize the privilege and power you have when you live and operate in your access to the throne of God.
  1. You will make Satan tremble more by going into your prayer closet and closing the door than by going out to minister.
- E. Prayer is the most important ministry in the church. Period. It is more important than preaching, worship, and outreach.
  1. People will come to church for preaching, worship, or outreach, but not so much when a prayer meeting is called.

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<sup>2</sup> Scrivern, Joseph Medlicott. “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” 1855



2. People will either show up when not much is required of them, or when they can be used and seen.
- F. Prayer is more important than preaching because the Word is spiritually discerned and must be delivered through the same Spirit who wrote it.
1. Without prayer, preaching is just philosophy, speaking to the intellect of man, unchanging to the heart.
- G. Worship ministry minus time with God is nothing more than live entertainment.
1. When a worshipper has been with God, even if they cannot carry a tune, the glory of God can fill a room.
  2. God would rather hear someone He knows intimately than the skilled voice of a professional.
- H. Outreach, the great commission, is important, but without prayer, it is without eternal value and is merely good works or programs like the government runs.
- I. Whether in preaching, singing, or outreach – the flesh profits nothing, but when the Spirit is present, there is life (John 6:63).
- The Spirit mixed with preaching gives life.  
The Spirit mixed with worship gives life.  
The Spirit mixed with outreach gives life.*
- J. Survival in this life is time spent alone with God.
- “How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had surrendered them?”*  
- Deuteronomy 32:30
1. Get the church praying and we can change the world!
- K. Prayer is an acknowledgement that I am not depending on myself. I need God and cannot do without Him.
1. Gideon’s army was vastly outnumbered, but God told Him there were too many men and proceeded to clear men out until there were only 300 men left (Judges 7:1-8).



2. Gideon's army of 300 had to be utterly dependent on God, which likely guaranteed that the army spent the night in prayer.
3. When the men held up their lanterns and blew the shofars, everything in them was trusting God to keep His promise (Judges 7:19-22).

L. To be "poor in spirit" is to be needy, to need God,

*"God blesses those who are poor **and realize their need for him**, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs."*

- Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

1. When you live needing God, the entire kingdom of heaven is for you.

*"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

- Philippians 4:19

2. Paul lived "poor in spirit," utterly dependent on God.
3. Acknowledge your need and do not live self-reliant.