



Releasing God's Best for My Life

Acts 12:1-18

"If my people, who are called by my name,
will humble themselves and pray...

I will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"The earnest prayer
of a righteous person has great power
and produces wonderful results."

James 5:16 (NLT)

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'" Luke 11:1 (NIV)

Five myths about prayer:

1. Some people think prayer is a magic wand.
2. Some people think prayer is a first aid kit.
3. Some people think prayer is a tug of war.
4. Some people think prayer is a formula.
5. Some people think prayer is a religious duty.

Prayer 101:

1. Prayer is connecting.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18 (NIV)

2. Prayer is communicating.

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15(NIV)

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?...If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:11-13 (NIV)

3. Prayer is asking for help.

"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:23-24 (NIV)

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let your petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG)

4. Prayer is releasing God's resources.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." John 14:12-13 (NIV)

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42 (NIV)

Assignment:

This week pray about one area of your life.

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1. Don't pray selfishly
 2. Pray specifically
 3. Pray continually
 4. Pray expectantly
 5. Pray honestly

