

Pray! Pray! Then Pray Again!

The following is compiled and adapted from some of the materials in the ONE BY ONE *Prayer Guide*:

John 21: 22...If you have faith when you pray, you will be given whatever you ask for."

Prayer is communion with God in the deepest level. It can be a lengthy composition of praise such as a hymn or Psalm or a three-word plea..."Lord, please help!" There are the hours of heart-wrenching struggle and questioning before the Father as one searches for the meaning of life's trials. Yet there are also those moments of joyful praise when a child sees a butterfly and whispers, "God made that! Thank you, God!" In both the agony and the awe lies the meaning of prayer.

Moses persistently prayed for deliverance for his people and the Pharaoh relented, the Red Sea was opened, and an entire nation was rescued. Hannah prayed with a broken heart for a child, and she was given a son who became the great prophet, Samuel. King David with moaning, grumbling, and crying prayed for help and for forgiveness. He was given the title, "man after God's own heart". For centuries a nation prayed for a Messiah. They were given the very Son of God. The Incarnate Christ courageously and confidently prayed from the desert, from the garden, and then from the cross. And the world was given grace.



A nineteenth century preacher and writer, E.M. Bounds, writes in one of his books, *The Possibilities of Prayer*: "The story of prayer is the story of great achievements. Prayer is a wonderful power placed by Almighty God in the hands of His saints, which may be used to accomplish great purposes and to achieve unusual results...The only limit to prayer is the promises of God and His ability to fulfill those promises."

Pray and believe!

Linda Hibner