

Fresh Oil of Prayer

Claude Lainey – September 21, 2025

Exodus 27:20 “Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning.

Oswald Chambers: “*Prayer does fit us for the greater work, but prayer is the greater work.*”

- We need to see prayer as the warm-up before the “real ministry”: preaching, evangelism, serving!

Acts 6:4 (ESV) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- The ministry of the Word was public, but prayer was the power behind it.
- Prayer is the easiest thing to do! Anyone can do it!

James 5:13 (NLT) Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

- But it is the hardest!

Why prayer is the hardest?

1. We live in a noisy world, so many voices & distractions!

Psalms 46:10–11 (ESV) “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” ¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

2. The weakness of the flesh.

Matthew 26:40 “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

3. We face opposition from the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

4. We deal with pride; prayer is to go low.

Psalms 95:6 (NIV) “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”

5. We seek human justice; we take matters in our own hands.

Romans 12:19 “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.

6. We may be afraid; afraid of stepping into unseen territory.

7. Practical pragmatism; we rationalize everything, removing spirituality out of our lives.

8. Prayer involves my heart; it is more than going through a list!

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras is described as “always wrestling in prayer.”

Romans 8:26–27 (NLT) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

Charles Spurgeon said: “My own soul conviction is that prayer is the greatest power in the entire universe.”

1. Prayer changes us

Psalms 37:4 (NLT) Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.

- **E. Stanley Jones: “Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat-hook from the boat and catch hold of the shore, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God.”**

2. Prayer moves heaven

James 5:16–18 (ESV) The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

- **Corrie Ten Boom: “The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God’s realm where everything is possible.”**
- **Mary, Queen of Scots in the 1,500’s, is reported to have said: “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe.”**
- **“The greatest victories are won not on battlefields, but in prayer closets.”**
 - **1 out of 7 Christians is persecuted worldwide according to Open Door**
 - **According to Open Door: 380 millions Christians suffer high levels of persecution**

3. God responds to prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14–16 (NIV) if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

4. Prayer fuels mission

Acts 4:31 (NLT) After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

5. Prayer Is the Greatest Work – Because God works behind the curtains

Acts 9:10–11 (NIV) In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. ¹¹The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

6. Prayer Outlasts All Other Work

Revelation 5:8 = Prayers are stored and valued in heaven.

Revelation 8:3–5 = Prayers are answered and poured back on earth in God’s timing.

7. The oil of prayer sustains the fire!

Can we turn this moment in a prayer meeting!

- 1. Oh Lord, make me — make us — a people of prayer!**
- 2. Forgive our prayerlessness, O Lord.**
- 3. Oh Lord, we need You!**
- 4. Come and heal our land, O Lord! Come and rescue _____
(name, family, city, nation).**
- 5. Oh Lord, pour out “Fresh Oil” over our Church!**