



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### Direct Line to God

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#### 1. What is our direct line to God? Jr 33:3

“Call on me and I will answer you. I will tell you things great beyond reach of your knowledge.”

All of us have prayer lines. But, prayer flies in our busy lives. Prayer grounds our mind and heart from being anxious and troubled (Phil 4:6-7).

#### 2. What is Prayer?

- Talking to God confidently without worry; surrendering to God and to His will; entrusting all to Him (1P 5:7).
- It is a dialogue; therefore, we must also listen to Him. Say “Is it you? I am your servant. I am listening to your word (1 S 3:9).”

#### 3. Prayerlessness:

- Life without prayer is filled with hopelessness, anxiety, and despair. Prayerless people cut themselves off from God.

Why do we find it so hard to pray?

##### a) Time

We do not try to find time to put Him first. We should prioritize our prayer time and have the discipline to stick to our schedule with Him.

##### b) Distractions

The key is to unplug everything by finding time with God in a quiet place.

##### c) Guilt

Sometimes guilt prevents us from praying. After we have confessed our failings, we have to forget the past, because God has forgiven us.

##### d) Sin.

Before we worship, we must reconcile first. (Mt 5:23, PS 66:18)

##### e) Doubt

We worry if what we are praying for will meet His approval. We are also unsure of what and how to pray. So, we must remember that prayer is simply, talking to God, entering His court with praise and thanksgiving, then confessing to Him (Ps 100:4).

##### f) Unanswered prayers in the past.

God’s power can change circumstances, heal physical and psychological problems, mend marriages, and encourage or discourage. In Lk 1:5-25, Zechariah could not believe that at their advanced age, they would have a child. However, God had a purpose and a perfect timing for John to herald the coming of Jesus

#### 4. Answered Prayers are only Coincidences

- How many coincidences happen when we pray? If we are willing to involve God in your daily lives, we will experience God’s prevailing power. Hence, we should never doubt God.
- George Muller, a man of great faith. He was on a ship travelling to a meeting, amidst a thick fog that would apparently delay his trip. But he prayed and believed that he would make it on time for the meeting. And to the Captain’s astonishment, the fog lifted miraculously, allowing them to sail and arrive on time. So when life’s circumstances confront us, we should not allow satan to deceive and discourage us.
- Testimony of Soar  
There was a drought in Australia affecting the farmers. She prayed for rain, and even before they departed, amidst a hot, sunny day, the clouds parted and rain fell, to the joy of the farmers. This event is a proof that we must live in the spirit of prayer daily. Similarly, there were several miracles in Soar’s life, which demonstrated that at exactly the time needed, miracles happened. So they were not mere coincidences. The lesson is to pray with faith. On the other hand, if you doubt, then do not pray at all.

Action: make a record of your prayers in one column and in another indicate what God has done for you. You will realize that there are numerous answered prayers.

## **5. Fallacies & mistaken ideas about God and Prayer.**

- God is busy. God does not want to hear about small problems. We already asked Him for something last week, so we should not ask again this week.

Pray to Him throughout your day. Pray without ceasing (1 Th 5:17). Even before we finish praying, God has answered us (Is 65:24).

## **6. God is a generous Father.**

Even the impossible will be provided by God. Even late in the evening, as we are about to sleep, blessings will still come. If we obey, blessings will chase us (Dt 28:2-6).

### **Conclusion:**

Pray so that change must and will begin with us. Welcome change joyfully. The things have already passed. I am preparing for something new (Is 43:18-19).

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