



The Secret Key to Heaven

The vital importance of Private Prayer

Thomas Brooks

“Prayer is the chief exercise of faith.”

-John Calvin

Part 4

OBJECTIONS STATED
AND ANSWERED

Objection 3:
No Ability

“We would willingly pray,
but we lack the ability”



Answer 1:

God's dearest children
may sometimes be unable
to speak

Answer 2:

Can you not sigh, nor groan
either?

“One sigh and groan from a broken heart, is better pleasing to God, than all human eloquence.”

-Thomas Brooks

Answer 3:

Beg God to teach you to
pray

“Now gracious promises are God’s
bonds, and he loves to see his people
put them in suit.”

-Thomas Brooks

8 Hints Concerning Precious Promises

1. They are truly stated by God (Mark 10:30)
2. They shall certainly be performed (2 Cor. 1:20)
3. They all issue from free grace, from special love, from divine goodness (Hos. 14:4)

8 Hints Concerning Precious Promises

4. They are all as unchangeable as he is that made them (Jer. 31:3)
5. They are all founded upon the truth, faithfulness, and all-sufficiency of God
6. They are pledges of great things that God will do for his people in time (Heb. 13:5)

8 Hints Concerning Precious Promises

7. They are most sure and certain evidences of divine favor, and a declaration of the heart and good-will of God to his poor people (Heb. 6:12)
8. They are the price of Christ's blood

Answer 4:

Stop Objecting and Start
Praying

“If you cannot pray as you would, nor as you should, pray as well as you can.”

-Thomas Brooks

Stop Objecting & Start Praying

- The Lord helps his people in prayer like little children — God can help! (Romans 8:26)
- You will improve in praying the more you do it with the Spirit's help
- God is not a critical observer but a Father pleased with our prayers

Answer 5:

As a Child of God you have
the Spirit of God

7 Particular Proofs

1. They are all sanctified by the Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11)
2. They are all led by the Spirit (Rom 8:14)
3. They are all upheld and strengthened by the Spirit (Ephesians 3:16)
4. They are all partakers of the first-fruits of the Spirit (Rom. 8:23) — there is more to come

7 Particular Proofs

5. They are all taught by the Spirit (Isaiah 54:13)
6. They are all comforted by the Spirit (Acts 9:31)
7. They are all sealed by the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

“Prayer is nothing but the breathing that out
before the Lord that was first breathed into us
by the Spirit of the Lord.”

-Thomas Brooks

Answer 6:

If You Can Manage Your
Callings, then You Can Pray

Objection 4: **No Purpose**

There is no moving God to
bestow favors which he does
not intend



Answer 1:

This Objection Works for All
Prayers

Answer 2:

Private Prayer is Part
of Divine Worship

Answer 3:

Prayer is the means through which
the Lord conveys favors to His
people

“To know God as the sovereign disposer of all good, inviting us to present our requests, and yet not to approach or ask of him, were so far from availing us, that it were just as if one told of a treasure were to allow it to remain buried in the ground.”

— John Calvin



Answer 4:

Every Christian should
labor to Enjoy his mercy
in mercy

“Certainly prayer is very necessary
to make every providence, and
every ordinance, and every mercy
to be a blessing to us.”

-Thomas Brooks

“But when you pray, go into your room
and shut the door and pray to your
Father who is in secret. And your Father
who sees in secret will reward you.”

-Matthew 6:6