



SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
est. 1892

Summer with a Puritan

The Secret Key to Heaven

Thomas Brooks

Instructions to Prayer 6-11 (Review)

- I. What Should Our Prayers Be Like?
 6. Fervent
 7. Constant
 8. Thirsting
- II. How Should Our Prayers Be Made?
 9. For God's Glory
 10. In Christ's Name
- III. When Will Our Prayers Be Answered?
 11. Watch and Wait

Instructions to Prayer 1-5

1. Pray Frequently
2. Pray at the Right Times
3. Pray for the Right Reasons
4. Pray to the Right End
5. Pray with Sincerity

Pray Frequently

“Be frequent in closet prayer, and not now and then only. He will never make any yearnings of closet prayer, that is not frequent in closet prayer.”

Pray Frequently

The example of eminent servants

The requirements of Scripture

The example of Christ

The example of the very worst men

The impossibility of praying too frequently

You have frequent need to pray

You are favorites of heaven

This liberty cost Christ his blood

Pray Frequently

The example of eminent servants

- Nehemiah (Neh 1:4-6)
- Daniel (Dan 6:10)
- David (Ps 55:17)

Pray Frequently

The example of the very worst men

- Papists (Roman Catholics)
- Mohammedans (Muslims)
- Heathens (Pagans)

Pray Frequently
You are favorites in Heaven

“...the petitions of many weak
Christians, and of many benighted
Christians, and of many tempted
Christians, and of many clouded
Christians, and of many staggering
Christians, and of many doubting
Christians, and of many bewildered
Christians, and of many fainting
Christians...

are put into your hands”

WHY?

Pray Frequently
this liberty cost Christ his blood

FREEDOM
IS
NOT
FREE

let not others suffer by your
neglect of private prayer!



Pray at the Right Times

“Take the fittest seasons and opportunities that possibly you can for closet prayer.”

Pray at the Right Times

Not when you are tired

Not when you are distracted

Not when you are in a bad mood

“Strike when the iron is hot”

Pray at the Right Time

Not when you are tired

“Take heed of laying cushions of sloth under your knees, or pillows of idleness under your elbows”

Pray at the Right Time

Not when you are distracted

“What! dost thou think, that
Jonah prayed thus when he was
in the whale’s belly; or Daniel
when he was among the lions; or
the thief when he was upon the
cross?” - Jerome

Pray at the Right Time

Not when you are in a bad mood

“I desire then that in every place
the men should pray, lifting holy
hands without anger or
quarreling” – 1 Tim 2:8

Must the best God be put
off with the least and worst
of your time?

Pray for the Right Reasons

*“Be careful that you do not perform closet duties
merely to still your consciences.”*

Pray for the Right Reasons

Not just because you know you should

Not just to because you feel guilty

Pray for the Right Reasons
Not just because you know you should

A subtle sort of Legalism

Pray for the Right Reasons
Not just because you feel guilty

A serious and deadly abuse

take heed of this, for this is
but plain hypocrisy, and will
be bitterness in the end



Pray to the Right End

*“Take heed of resting upon closet-duties, take heed
of trusting in closet-duties”*

Pray for the Right End

Prayer is a means not a mediator

Trusting in lawful means is a sin

Pray to the Right End
Prayer is a means not a mediator

Q. 32. How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?

A. The grace of God is manifested in the second covenant, in that he freely provideth and offereth to sinners a mediator, and life and salvation by him

Pray to the Right End
Trusting in lawful means is a sin

Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the first commandment, are...using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means

Open profaneness is the broad dirty way that leads to hell, but closet-duties rested in is a sure way, though a cleaner way, to hell.



Pray with Your Whole Heart

“Labour to bring your hearts into all your closet-prayers and performances”

Pray with Sincerity

Heart and tongue must go together

God looks first and most to your hearts

Pray with Sincerity
Heart and tongue must go together

Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to
my cry! Give ear to my prayer from
lips free of deceit! (Psalm 17:1)

Pray with Sincerity

God looks first and most to your hearts

My son, give me your heart
(Pr 23:26)

‘he would never leave a duty, till he had brought his heart into the frame of the duty; he would not leave confession of sin, till his heart was broken for sin; he would not leave petitioning for grace, till his heart was quickened and enlivened in a hopeful expectation of more grace; he would not leave gratulation, till his heart was enlarged with the sense of the mercies he enjoyed, and quickened in the return of praise.’

Summary

- Pray Frequently
 - Pray at the Right Times
 - Pray for the Right Reasons
 - Pray to the Right End
 - Pray with Sincerity
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