

Prayer is the most powerful tool to bring someone into God's presence quickly. As we know, anyone who comes before the Lord Jehovah has a high chance of having their needs met. The devil, aware of this, does not want anyone to reach that place. So, what he does is bombard people with distracting, demonic thoughts to prevent them from praying.

Some of these thoughts include:

1. "I'm Too Tired to Pray"

Before even considering prayer, the first thought that comes to mind is often "I'm too tired." People start thinking, "I've been working all day, I haven't had a chance to rest. I'm feeling feverish and sleepy, so I'll skip praying today and rest instead. I'll pray tomorrow."

Others might say, "I've been serving God all day, from morning until evening. People are still depending on me for teaching. I have numerous meeting invitations, so I'm too tired to pray today."

But our Lord Jesus Christ was even more exhausted than we can imagine, having served tirelessly, traveling from place to place. There were times when, after preaching all day, instead of resting, He made His disciples go ahead while He stayed behind to pray on the mountain. He spent hours in prayer not because He wasn't tired, but because He understood the importance of prayer.

In Matthew 14:22-23 (NIV), we see Jesus' intentional withdrawal for prayer:

Matthew 14:22-23

“Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone.”

Jesus' commitment to prayer, even in the midst of fatigue, demonstrates His recognition of its power. Prayer was a priority

for Him, even more than physical rest. The Bible teaches us that “man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4, NIV). Jesus knew that spiritual nourishment was as important as physical rest.

So, why should we allow the thought “I’m too tired” to replace our prayer time? Never let fatigue become an excuse to skip prayer.

2. “I Don’t Have Time to Pray”

Another lie the devil often plants in people’s minds is, “I don’t have time to pray.” People say they’re overwhelmed with so many tasks, too busy... I’ve heard many people tell me they can’t go to church or pray because they don’t have time. Even ministers of the gospel say, “I’m too busy with ministry to pray for myself. I have so many invitations for seminars in different places.”

But let me remind you of Jesus, who was busier than any of us. At times, crowds would press around Him, wanting to hear His teachings. But the Bible tells us He would withdraw to a quiet place to pray.

In Luke 5:15-16 (NIV), we read:

Luke 5:15-16

“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

Even when Jesus was surrounded by great need and activity, He still made time for prayer. The disciples’ experience with Jesus was one of constant interaction with the crowds, but even they had to learn the importance of personal time with God in prayer. Jesus taught that we must prioritize our relationship with God over ministry activity. Mark 1:35 also reveals that Jesus rose early to pray, making prayer an essential part of His day, no matter how busy He was.

He did this because He understood that even the work He was doing needed prayer in order to succeed. It’s surprising to say we are servants of God, but don’t have time for personal prayer. We,

too, need to withdraw and make time for prayer.

3. “Why Can’t I Live Without Prayer?”

Another lie the devil whispers is, “Why do I need prayer? I can manage my life without it.” While it’s true you can manage worldly things without prayer, you cannot manage your salvation without it.

You might be able to go to clubs, continue drinking, steal, live immorally, stay busy with work all without needing prayer. But if you claim to be saved and you don’t pray, you won’t be able to resist trials. Jesus Himself said, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation” (Matthew 26:41, NIV). Do you think He was joking? Do you think the devil will let you rest just because you’re saved? He will pursue you, and if you don’t pray, you won’t escape.

James 4:1-3 (NIV) teaches that the battles we face often come from unsubmitted desires within us:

James 4:1-3

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

Prayer is like fuel for salvation. Just as a car can’t run without fuel, your salvation cannot make progress without prayer. It is through prayer that we align our desires with God’s will, and in doing so, we find strength to overcome the desires of the flesh and the temptations of the enemy.

4. “I’m Not Sure My Prayers Will Be Answered”

Another demonic thought is believing that your prayers won’t be answered. You might think you’re wasting your time praying. But I want to tell you that all prayers are heard if you pray according to God’s will. It’s not about praying once and forgetting it; prayer is an ongoing part of the Christian life. Some prayers require repeated petitions—today, tomorrow, the next day, and so on. But Jesus assured us that any prayer offered in His name will eventually be answered.

Luke 18:1 (NIV) encourages us to persist in prayer:

Luke 18:1

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV) further emphasizes the need for persistence in prayer:

Matthew 7:7-8

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Finally, there are people who believe they can find another way to communicate with God or get solutions to their problems other

than through prayer. But let me tell you: Jesus has already given us the blueprint. There is no other way, no other method. Jesus Himself sinless and holy did not overlook the importance of prayer. He made prayer a central part of His life.

Sometimes He prayed with sweat, tears, and even blood, pleading until He was heard.

Luke 22:44 (NIV) shows us how fervent Jesus' prayer was in the Garden of Gethsemane:

Luke 22:44

“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

Otherwise, He would not have received anything. So how can we, who are imperfect, think we can live without prayer and still call ourselves Christians?

Hebrews 5:7 (NIV) reminds us of the power of earnest prayer:

Hebrews 5:7

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”

Let’s not seek shortcuts. If we want to see God moving closely in our lives, now is the time to renew our commitment to prayer. The Lord told us to pray at least one hour a day. Let’s make an effort, fight through the distractions, and not allow the devil’s lies to rob us of our prayer life. Let’s not let a lack of time ruin our schedules, and let’s not rely on our own strength and wisdom to hinder our prayer life.

May the Lord bless you.

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