



- Jesus never complicated prayer, he **simplified** it.

The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:... Matthew 6:7-9 (MSG)

- The most powerful prayers we pray are when we invite God to **transform** us.

We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NCV)  
All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (MSG)

- Our prayers tend to be about what God can **give** us rather than what we can **give** God.

**Here is a challenge for us:**

Make the purpose of your prayers that God is **blessed**, not you.

For the glory of your name, O LORD, preserve my life. Because of your faithfulness, bring me out of this distress. Psalm 143:11 (NLT)

Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. Psalm 79:9 (NIV)

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, ... —everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

**Powerful prayers:**

- Father, **search** me.

Then they heard the Lord God walking in the garden during the cool part of the day, and the man and his wife hid from the Lord God among the trees in the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said, "Where are you?" The man answered, "I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." Genesis 3:8-10 (NCV)

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Ps 139:23

See if there is any offensive way in me... Psalm 139:24

**The reason this prayer is powerful:**

Change begins with **transparency**.

Open up before God, keep nothing back; he'll do whatever needs to be done: He'll validate your life in the clear light of day and stamp you with approval ... Psalm 37:5-6

- Father, **forgive** me.

Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:2-7

**The reason this prayer is powerful:**

Change requires **humility** in us.

...I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight.

You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just... Psalm 51:2-4

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

- Father, **change** me.

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Don't toss me aside, banished forever from your presence. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Psalm 51:10-12 (TLB)

Don't toss me aside, banished forever from your presence. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11 (TLB)

**The reason this prayer is powerful:**

Change requires a **new direction** with God.

...God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change. Romans 2:4 (MSG)

- Father, **use** me.

**What is your response to God using you?**

- Jonah said: Here I am. I'm **not going.** Jonah 1:1-3

- Moses said: Here I am. Send **someone else.** Exodus 3:10

- Isaiah said: Here I am. Send **me.**

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Create in me a pure heart, God, and make my spirit right again. Do not send me away from you or take your Holy Spirit away from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation. Keep me strong by giving me a willing spirit. Then I will teach your ways to those who do wrong, and sinners will turn back to you. Psalm 51:10-13

**The reason this prayer is powerful:**

Change brings a new **passion** into life.

Then I will teach your ways to those who do wrong, and sinners will turn back to you. Psalm 51:13

## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you feel like your prayers are powerful? Explain.
- Why are powerful prayers transformational prayers? What does that mean to you?
- Why do you think our prayers are more about what God can give us rather than what we can give God?
- Can you make the purpose of your prayers that God is blessed rather than you?
- Talk through the four different points on powerful prayers. What do each of these prayers mean to you and why are they so powerful?
- How can we make these prayers a part of our everyday lives?
- How would these prayers change your life?

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Today's Talk..



# **“How to Pray Powerful Prayers”**