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for things agreeable to His will,  
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and  
thankful acknowledgement of His mercies.**

# What is Prayer?





Fulton Street prayer  
meeting, 1858 (Harper's  
Weekly)

**What various hindrances we meet**

**In coming to the mercy seat;**

--William Cowper, *Olney Hymns*

What various hindrances we meet

In coming to the mercy seat;

**Yet who that knows the worth of prayer,**

**But wishes to be often there.**

--William Cowper, *Olney Hymns*

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2. Because generally there is no *immediate* return.
3. **Because we mistake the primary *purpose* for praying.**

*In praying, the principal object  
to be sought, is to be alone  
with God.*

--J. C. Ryle





# Why so hard to pray?

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5. **Because of *spiritual opposition*.**



*For, as for my heart, when I go to pray, I find it loth to go to God, and when it is with him, so loth to stay with him, that many times I am forced in my prayers, first to beg of God that he would take mine heart, and set it on himself in Christ, and when it is there, that he would keep it there.*

*--John Bunyan, A Discourse on Prayer*

# Why so hard to pray?

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2. Because generally there is no *immediate* return.
3. Because we mistake the primary *purpose* for praying.
4. Because of our *sin*.
5. Because of *spiritual opposition*.
6. Because of the discouragement of *fitfulness*.

*If my prayers were written down on paper, and then my vain, distracting thoughts in time of duty interlined, O, what incoherent nonsense would there be! I am ashamed, Lord, I am ashamed! O, pity and pardon!*

**--Philip Henry (Feb. 19, 1657)**

# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

*But you, when you pray, go into your secret room,  
close your door and pray to your Father. . .*

**Matthew 6:6a (NASB)**

*But you, when you pray, go into your secret room,  
close your door and pray to your Father...*

Matthew 6:6a (NASB)

*Now he was telling them a parable to show that at  
all times they ought to pray...*

Luke 18:1a (NASB)



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close your door and pray to your Father...*

Matthew 6:6a (NASB)

*Now he was telling them a parable to show that at all  
times they ought to pray...*

Luke 18:1a (NASB)

*Devote yourselves to prayer...*

Colossians 4:2 (NASB)

# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

## 1. By Obedience.

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By submitting to this **law**, we immediately discover **liberty**.

# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

1. By Obedience.
2. **By Realization.**

*Remember the rebuke I once got from old Mr.  
Dempster of Denny after preaching to his people.*

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*“I was highly pleased with your sermon,  
but in prayer it struck me that you thought  
God*

*Remember the rebuke I once got from old Mr. Dempster of Denny after preaching to his people.*

*“I was highly pleased with your sermon, but in prayer it struck me that you thought God unwilling to give.”*

# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

1. By Obedience.
2. **By Realization.**





THE  
OF THE

EIGHT  
WORLD



BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK IF ANY MAN  
HEAR MY VOICE AND OPEN THE DOOR I WILL COME  
IN TO HIM AND WILL SUPPER WITH HIM AND HE WITH ME

YOUTH

REGINA

PATRIOT

AND OF

The title





Behold a virgin and her son, the infant Jesus, who is the light of the world, and upon his breast is the Holy Spirit, who is the light of the world.

# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

1. By Obedience.
2. **By Realization.**

**Revelation 3:20**

*It is, it seems to me, the key which opens the door in the holy and blessed realm of prayer. To pray is to let Jesus come into our hearts. This teaches us, in the first place, that it is not our prayer which moves the Lord Jesus. It is Jesus who moves us to pray. He knocks.*

*To pray is to open the door unto Jesus.*

*--O Hallesby, Prayer*

# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

1. By Obedience.
2. By Realization.
3. **By Preparation**



# Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

1. By Obedience.
2. By Realization.
3. By Preparation
4. **By Praying First about the Obvious**

**Now when Abraham was ninety-nine years old,  
the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,**

*I am God Almighty;*

*Walk before Me, and be blameless*

**Genesis 17:1**

Now when Abraham was ninety-nine years old,  
the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

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**Genesis 17:1**



Now when Abraham was ninety-nine years old,  
the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

*I am God Almighty;*

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**“to my face”**

**“toward my face”**

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**Genesis 17:1**

*Most of us cannot quite understand how prayer can involve such difficulty and anguish.*

*Why should praying entail so much suffering?*

*Why should our prayer life be a constantly flowing source of anguish?*

*If we will reflect but for a moment, we will, however,  
see that it cannot be otherwise.*

*If prayer is... the central function of the new life of  
faith, the very heart-beat of our life in God, it is  
obvious that our prayer life must become the target  
against which Satan directs his best and most  
numerous darts....*