



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*

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.**

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

--J. C. Ryle



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4. **Because of our *sin*.**

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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

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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)

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*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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Matthew 6:6a (NASB)

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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

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2. **By Realization.**

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

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THE
OF THE

LIGHT
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 Golden

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**

Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

1. By Obedience.
2. By Realization.
3. By Preparation
4. By Praying First about the Obvious
5. **By Making a Beginning**

Dealing with Difficulties Confidently

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2. By Realization.
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4. By Praying First about the Obvious
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6. **By Dependence**

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6. By Dependence

- 7. By Patience**